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Student succumbs after battle with cancer

By SARAH TAN
Editor-in-Chief

This past Monday, sophomore Katie Oppo passed away after battling with ovarian cancer for many months. Oppo, who was a sister in Hopkins's Phi Mu sorority, will be missed dearly by her sorority and by the community. Oppo's family has not yet contacted the school with their wishes for a formal on-campus memorial, but according to Director of Greek Life Robert Turning, Phi Mu is organizing buses to Oppo's hometown of Manhasset, N.Y. in order to attend her private memorial service on April 15.

"Katie was an outstanding, gifted student but the memory that will endure for those who knew her was her ability to take joy in the moment," a press release from Oppo's high school stated.

Oppo has been out of school due to her illness since the beginning of the school year in September 2010. Though Hopkins has not yet been able to contact

SEE PHI MU, PAGE A7



COURTESY OF MANHASSET HIGH
Oppo was a sophomore at Hopkins.



Milkman performed for a crowd of visiting prospective students. This Open House, the first of two, ran from April 13-14.

CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

SOHOP expands Open House event

By MICHAEL NAKAN
News & Features Editor

Over 500 prospective high school seniors descended upon Hopkins yesterday for a radically revamped open house.

The newly formed Spring Open House Overnight Programs (SOHOP), run under the Department of Undergraduate Admissions, invited the pre-freshmen to campus in order to give them a better idea of what Hopkins is all about.

"The emphasis is on high-

lighting the student life we have here on campus," Special Events Coordinator Jonathon Ditroia said. "This is an organic experience for kids to meet Hopkins students. Making these relationships has been the goal for us."

Prospective students came from all over the country and the world to stay overnight in the freshman dorms yesterday followed by an open house today, in addition to taking advantage of a multitude of events peppered throughout the two days. This comes as a complete change

to previous year's open houses, which were only one day long and were based almost exclusively around academics.

Hopkins reserved an Amtrak train (informally known as "the SOHOP express") which left from Boston early yesterday, ferrying in 150 students from around the upper East Coast. SOHOP representatives also met prospective students at BWI and provided transportation from the airport to campus.

Other trimmings include an extensively decorated campus, SEE PRE-FROSH, PAGE A7

SGA elects new executive board

By JUSTIN LI
Staff Writer

Last Monday, the results of the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Elections were announced. Current junior class president Ardi Mendoza was elected executive president; current sophomore executive treasurer Wyatt Larkin was elected vice president; current sophomore class senator Joanna Gawlik was elected treasurer; and freshman Annie Scavelli was elected secretary. Voter turnout reached an all-time high of 1663 voters, or 35 percent of the student body, a 5 percent increase from the previous year's turnout.

Junior Mark Dirzulaitis, current SGA Executive President, remarked on the high intensity and effort by candidates in this year's election.

"It's really worth noting how [many] passionate campaign efforts we saw this election period," Dirzulaitis said at last Tuesday's SGA meeting. "It's wonderful to see all this deep-vested interest in SGA. It goes to show how far we've come as an organization and where we're headed."

Mendoza defeated his opponent, junior Kirk Sabnani, by 724 votes to 666 votes, or 44 percent of the total votes to 40 percent of the total votes. Larkin won by default due to the disqualification of his competitor, junior Scott Barrett. However, due to an appeal by Barrett that was not resolved by the time of the election, Barrett's name remained on the ballot and he won the popular vote 759 to 630, or 46 percent to 38 percent of the total votes.

Gawlik, in a field of five candidates, defeated her closet two SEE SGA ELECTION, PAGE A7

FAS hosts White House drug policy director, Kerlikowske

By JULES SZANTON
Staff Writer

R. Gil Kerlikowske, President Obama's Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, spoke at the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) to a respectful but mostly critical crowd in Mason Hall last night about the Obama Administration's approach to drug policy.

Kerlikowske sought to portray the administration's approach to drug control as progressive, noting changes in terminology, policy and funding priorities. He began by distancing himself from the term "War on Drugs," a phrase that administrations for the past several decades have used to describe their drug policy.

"War on drugs' is great on bumper stickers... but it doesn't really hold up when you look at the complexity of the issue," Kerlikowske said.

Kerlikowske instead argued that the Obama Administration has a more nuanced approach to fighting the abuse of legal and illegal drugs. He detailed several reforms, saying that the Administration is more dedicated to reducing demand for drugs, instead of merely attempting to cut off supply. He noted an increased focus on addiction treatment and prevention, as well as criminal justice reforms that focus more on rehabilitation than punishment. He also noted attempts to collaborate with other countries to fight international



JIAYI WANG/PHOTO STAFF
Kerlikowske discussed drug policy and reforms under the Obama administration.

drug trafficking and production.

Reforms that Kerlikowske mentioned that the government is promoting include drug courts — courts that focus less on punishing drug addicts and dealers, and more on helping the defendants find a path to a better life. Many of these reforms are being developed as pilot programs in small cities. If successful, they can be replicated elsewhere. "Addiction is a disease, not some moral failure that people should just get over. It's treatable and it's preventable," said Kerlikowske.

However for many students at the event, Kerlikowske's modest reforms didn't go far enough. Senior Ben Greenfield suggested that by giving business to murderous drug lords, US drug poli SEE FAS, PAGE A8

JHU embraces "fanboy" culture with JohnCon

By IAN SCOTT
Opinions Editor

Hopkins hosted JohnCon, its annual science fiction and fantasy convention last weekend.

The event, which was run by the Hopkins Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (HopSFA), was held in Levering Hall and lasted for two days straight, from 5 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Sunday. Each year, HopSFA attracts panel groups who showcase anything from artwork to jewelry to comic books.

This year's convention featured groups including Cyanide and Happiness, Surviving the World, Manly Guys Doing Manly Things and Disorganization 13 as well as two student panels.

Junior Jeffrey Bismayer, supreme adjudicator of HopSFA, oversaw JohnCon.

"It was well attended, but it could have been better. It was better than last year," Bismayer said.



MOHAN LIANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The annual JohnCon convention offered a myriad of events for gamers and SciFi fanatics.

Bismayer added that this year's successful attendance could pave the way for the continued improvement and expansion of the convention.

"Hopefully since this was a larger turnout we can get more funding and bring more to the convention next year," Bismayer said.

Although the convention ran continuously over the 48-hour pe-

riod, the panels did not present during the middle of the night. The attendees who did stay at the convention overnight played board games and watched anime, which was running the whole time.

One of the most popular panels was Disorganization 13, which is a popular spoiler comedy group that appears at Ota SEE JOHNCON, PAGE A8

Hopkins welcomes new Muslim chaplain

Amin is first chaplain to be elected in ten years

By JULIA ANGLEY
Staff Writer

Imam Hassan Amin is the newly-appointed Muslim Chaplain at Hopkins. He has a 30-year background in social work, a 10-year career as a sociology professor at Sojourner Douglass College, and 25 years as an administrator and Imam at local Islamic centers

in Baltimore City.

This is not his first time being affiliated with Hopkins.

"For the last five to six years, I've been a volunteer chaplain at the Johns Hopkins Hospital," Amin said. His work there included counseling patients, and also working to spread knowledge about Islam to the Hopkins Hospital staff. "I spent time at

the School of Nursing, teaching them how to interact with their Muslim patients, trying to allow them to get a better understanding of some of the aspects of our faith."

He hopes to do some similar work on our campus, and is excited to work with the students here. "I love being around youth SEE CHAPLAIN, PAGE A8

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Korean students perform to raise awareness about disputed island

By VICTORIA SCORDATO
Layout Editor

In an effort to raise awareness about the territorial dispute between Korea and Japan over a little island in the Pacific called, by the Koreans, Dokdo (and by the Japanese, Takeshima), Dokdo Racer, a group of student performers from top Korean universities, held a cultural seminar last Friday, featuring traditional Korean dances and a series of stories regarding the history of the dispute. The event, which took place in the Charles Common Multipurpose room, began around 5:30 p.m. and continued until about 7:00 p.m. Over the course of the hour and a half the troupe, which consisted of six people, performed three traditional dances punctuated by three stories, told by two members of the troupe, about the island's history and the origins of the disagreement between Korea and Japan regarding it.

The first performance of the night was an example of Samul nori, a traditional Korean musical genre. Samul nori is performed using four traditional Korean instruments, including a small gong, a larger gong, an hour-glass-shaped drum and a barrel drum. The performers dressed in traditional Korean garb, sitting on the ground and swaying to the rhythm of the music. On occasion, the performers would yell out a few words in Korean over the sound of the drums, which at times were nearly deafening, making for a thoroughly dramatic performance.

After the first performance ended, a member of the group apologized for the 30-minute delay in

starting the performance, which was caused by traffic. He explained that the group had already traveled over 8000 miles on their tour of the United States, which started in Los Angeles on Feb. 25 and took them all over the Southwest and through Canada before coming to the East Coast earlier that week. He noted that the group still planned to visit South America and Eurasia, among many other places, before their tour was over. He then described the format of the event: there would be three performances, each of which would be followed by a story about the group's cause, and explained the underlying purpose behind the group's being there.

"We are here to show you our performance and also tell you our stories, the stories of our island Dokdo," he said.

The second performance of the night featured a Gayageum, a traditional Korean string instrument. The woman who played the instrument sat on the floor, the instrument propped up on her lap, and wore a traditional pink dress. The music she played was significantly more melodic than that of the first performance, evoking a sense of sadness and bitterness, but also endurance and hope.

The third performance involved Bongsan Talchum, a traditional Korean dance often performed by dancers wearing masks while also miming, talking or even singing. In this instance the performers briefly chanted along to the beat of a drum and at one point the audience joined in the chanting as well. This was the most interactive and engaging performance of the night with new performers coming in and

out the whole time.

Between each performance there was a story. All three stories touched on the broader theme of the territorial dispute between Japan and Korea and how their efforts would hopefully shed light on the issue. Throughout the three stories the performers established the importance of the island, explaining the motivation behind their significant efforts.

The island is a symbol of Korean independence from Japan because even after Korea gained its independence from Japan in 1948, Japan still asserted its claim on the island. Currently, the island is occupied by Korea, but recently Japan has been increasing its efforts to assert dominance over the territory by changing its textbooks to alter the history of the dispute. Their official position has always been that Japan owns the island.

This is still a point of disagreement, which audience member, Minji Kim, elucidated on. "'I'm Korean, so I obviously think that Dokdo is Korean territory, and I think Japan shouldn't have revised their textbooks...'" Minji Kim said.

One of the group's leaders, Eun-ryeol Kim, also discussed the controversy surrounding the group's efforts, which come at an especially sensitive time for Japan. "Because of the tragedy [that] happened in Japan, lots of people think that [bringing up] Dokdo in this time is not a proper thing," Eun-ryeol Kim said. "We really feel sorry for the tragedy that happened in Japan. They are our neighbors and we are very sorry for them. But Dokdo is another story... Humanitarian support must be continued but we have to

tell them our truth," he added.

Of the varied historical accounts, student speaker Byung Gil Choi also spoke of why this issue remains pertinent. "It's not just about a small island, it's kind of a big issue, because to the Koreans it's not just an island, it's the whole Korean territory," Choi said. "Because when Japan colonized the Korean peninsula, they [sic] forced the Dokdo. After 1905, about five years later, they colonized the whole peninsula. So that means Dokdo is the first step for colonizing the Korean territory," Choi said.

"It's just an issue between two countries... It is a little complex, but [the] USA did something good for Japan and that's why Japan claimed that Dokdo is their territory. They made some proofs, but not officially. We are telling people around the world about this issue... And Japan's textbook is also a big issue in East Asia. We have to tell more people and make them know about that," Choi said.

Event response was primarily positive.

"I think them spreading awareness, that's great," sophomore Yoona Kim said, "it's essentially a non-disputable issue but Japan is continuously trying to make it a disputable issue so that they can claim at the end. So, I think international awareness and international interest in the issue will really help especially because I think Japan is trying to do this for their position in international society to dispute this little island that we have, to extend their territory essentially."

The success of the event was partially because the troupe is comprised of college students from top Korean universities.

"I would never be able to drop out a semester and do the things that they are doing. I think it's great," Yoona Kim said. "I think the performance was effective, because it wasn't just giving information; they put an interesting cultural aspect in and people weren't bored."

Eun-ryeol Kim, a student from



JIAIY WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Korean performers showcased traditional Korean music and dance.

Seoul National University, mentioned that the group hopes to visit 20 countries. "We do not get any funding. The problem is a very complicated issue, and lots of companies, they do not want to... We tried it and some companies, like Kia motors helped us with their cars, but most countries don't want to get involved in political issues," Eun-ryeol Kim said.

One criticism, though, concerned the lack of diversity among audience members. "It would have been better if there were more people who weren't Korean who attended the event," Yoona Kim said. "I don't think it's bad because a lot of Koreans say that Dokdo is [a] Korean territory but they're not able to explain well why... so Korean people here can go out and tell other people if the topic arises," Yoona Kim continued.

"When we go to some street performances," Choi said, "we can meet a lot of foreigners, but when we have an event like this one... I think most USA citizens doesn't want to know about this issue. For their respect, it was like kind of a regional issue... I want to have some more chance to reach [out to] Americans to talk about this issue."

Senior Yuho Doh, the president of the KSA, spoke about the problems surrounding the event. "We were supposed to have this thing at a better room over there, like a conference room... so that's

one thing that did not go as I expected. And they were supposed to go at five, but they came 30 minutes late. But I understand because it's their first time performing in America and they probably weren't aware of traffic issues and stuff," Doh said. In general, Doh spoke positively of the event's organization and the group itself.

"[Raising awareness] is crucial, actually, because taking a protective stance, for economics or politically. Korea is a weaker country compared to Japan. And we don't make the world aware of this issue... so it's a really good thing to have people who are trying to convey their issue around the world," Doh said.

Despite the controversial nature of the issue, at least to the Japanese government, about which the Korean performers were trying to raise awareness, KSA treasurer Byung Joon Park emphasized that escalating the situation was not what the KSA was trying to do when it hosted the Korean performers.

"The primary aim of [Korean performers] is not to instigate political controversy related to territorial dispute," Park said. "The group assumes that the Dokdo island belongs to Korea, and under that assumption, they travel around the world in order to inform people of the beauty of the island and to let foreigners know more about traditional Korean music."

Student Alumni Society plans Homecoming

By FAWAZ AHMED
Staff Writer

The Student Alumni Society, in association with the Office of Alumni Relations has been involved in planning a host of events for Homecoming Weekend with thousands of people expected to attend. A meeting was held last Sunday to recruit volunteers to sign up as golf cart drivers, escorts, bouncers and more. For the past three months, the society has been organizing the weekend, which is geared towards creating a better bond between students and alumni and enhancing campus spirit.

"Last year we had around 2,500 people, but this year we are expecting more than 3,500," senior Alexander Lachman, president of the Student Alumni Society said.

More than 100 events are expected to take place over the course of the three days of the alumni weekend. For students, there will be a free barbeque on the freshman quad for the pre-game rally, for which the tickets will be handed out during the week. "This is our opportunity to give back to students and make them realize how special Hopkins really is," Reilly said.

Additionally, there will be inflatable rides, giant slides and a bungee run while the JHU Jaywalk dance team will have tattoos available to get people into the spirit for the game. Element K, a local cover band, has been invited to play during the rally. Unlike last year, the Society has gained approval for a beer garden and will be offering drinks — up to a maximum of three — to those of legal age at the event.

The Student Alumni Society, trying to get people to sign up to help organize the event, highlighted the benefits for volunteers. "You will be helping staff some of the events, getting names, helping out with seating, handing out gifts, that sort of thing," junior Erin Reilly, who is the founding president and was a principal organizer of last year's Homecoming Weekend, said at the meeting. "You get really cool opportunities to talk to people."

The shifts offered for sign-ups

start at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, April 22 and run until Sunday night.

Alumni Events for Homecoming Weekend include the Alumni College (a series of lectures held by Hopkins professors for visiting alumni), a robotics lab organized for the class of 1950, events for visiting alumni families and a series of reunion dinners for the various classes. Volunteers who sign up to help during the weekend will also be given the chance to go to some of the dinners, which is a particu-

"taste" program, in which alumni take students to events around the city. This program is still in its planning stages and is slated to launch early next year.

Reilly said that having organized the event last year was an invaluable experience. "We worked closely with the Office of Alumni Relations and Pat Conklin, the head of Homecoming Weekend. Last year was really daunting, since we didn't have any idea what to expect, but having organized it once before we think it'll be a lot smoother this year."

However the help of the Office of Alumni Relations still provides invaluable assistance to the society. "The alumni office is letting us be very flexible with what we have, as long we have a legitimate idea that we can put together, they are willing to help," Reilly said.

The Office of Alumni Relations provided the alumni society with a budget to help them serve their weekend. "Thanks to the generous support provided by the Office of Alumni Relations, the society often has easy access to experienced people, time and a good budget."

Justin Flinchler, associate director of alumni relations at the Office of Development and Alumni Relations and the advisor for the Student Alumni Society, said that the partnership has been fruitful. "I work on programs that connect students with alumni, and the pre-game rally for students, organized by the Student Alumni Society, large barbeques, bands, [and] parades [provide a] variety of opportunities for people to hang out and group together as students before the homecoming game."

Nevertheless, according to Lochman, it will only be possible to host a successful event if they have good support from the student body. "The alumni office has upped the number of events that they are going to offer, so we need more volunteers to participate."

Lochman said that he is proud to be a part of the society. "It is a really rewarding experience. You feel like you are giving back, and at the same time since we're students we get something out of it as well."



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The Student Alumni Society expects thousands to attend Homecoming.

larly valuable networking opportunity according to the alumni society. "[Volunteers] will be a hot commodity," Reilly said.

Apart from Homecoming Weekend itself, the Student Alumni Society, a new campus group created in the fall of 2009, has been involved in designing and planning several other events to enhance student-alumni relationships. These include monthly student-alumni networking events and a leadership symposium for students and young alumni. "Because of the success last year we were able to partner with several alumni to offer these events," Lochman said.

He emphasized the importance of the homecoming weekends in building credibility for their organization among alumni. The group also planned to establish an alumni database for networking. "This is a great opportunity to essentially hold office hours with members of the alumni office," Lochman said. "You sit with a staff member one-on-one and they look into their database [of alumni] and find you someone who is interested and willing to help out."

Other activities organized by the society include the San Martin Networking event and the

Date Auction raises money while having fun

By WANG JAE RHEE
News & Features Editor

Last Monday, Vision XChange, a student organization devoted to raising money for charity through unique events like Hopkins Top Model and Hopkins Got Talent, held an event called the Date Auction. The auction, whereby representatives from 22 student groups across campus were bought off by admirers and friends in exchange for a date at one of the local restaurants, collected over \$1,000, which will be used to help underprivileged girls in Nepal.

"[The Date Auction] was about spurring friendly cross-campus competition that would bring many of the on-campus student groups together, and all that for a good cause," senior Trisha Chakraborty, one of the co-chairs of Vision XChange, said.

Indeed, the auctionees represented student groups that spanned from Greek fraternities and sororities to sports teams and culture groups. Apart from student participation, various local restaurants, Brewers Art, City Café, Mezza and Dogwood Deli to name a few, provided gift cards entitling the winning bidders to dinner with their dates. In fact, the winning bidders were given the choice of gift cards in descending order of their winning bid. For example, the bidder that bought a date for the highest price got to choose a gift card first, and the winning bidder date of the date at the second highest price got to choose next and so on. The highest bid went to senior Jacob Peters, who represented the Greek fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon, and was sold for \$136. The date to be sold for the next highest price was sophomore Aishwarya Rajagopalan, who was auctioned off for \$130.

The participants of the auction, both the bidders and the dates, expressed satisfaction with the event.

"I thought [the Date Auction]

was awesome; Vision XChange did a great job putting it together," Peters said. "[It] was really successful, had a great turnout and everyone who was a part of it was really into it, not to mention that the whole thing was extremely well-organized," Peters continued. "The organizers knew that we were there to both have fun and raise money for charity, and they made sure both of those happened."

Senior Kyle Engelmann, who was bought for \$35 for the fourth highest price, agreed. "I thought [the Auction was] definitely successful," Engelmann said. "Vi-



JIAIY WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Date Auction was sponsored by local Baltimore restaurants.

sion XChange always has really unique ways of raising money for a good cause, and this was not an exception."

An exception it was not. The Date Auction raised a total of \$1141, all of which will be going to the Unatti Foundation, an organization that supports disadvantaged girls in Nepal, giving them shelter, food and education. Vision XChange got in touch with the Unatti Foundation through senior Chelsea Rinnig, who had volunteered with for the Foundation over the summer.

"I lived with underprivileged girls [in Nepal] this summer," Rinnig said. "There, [Unatti foundation] took in 13 girls and paid for their education, room and boarding. We have three house mothers, and we send the girls to local private schools."

Rinnig explained that the Unatti Foundation is a voluntary organization, which means that very little of the money donated to it will be spent on anything other than the well-being of the

girls. "The only people we 'employ' are the house mothers, who are themselves living underprivileged lives, since the director of the program takes no salary," Rinnig said, "which means that basically all the money that's raised from the Date Auction will be directly benefitting these girls."

The knowledge of such direct help contributed to the participants' positive view of the whole event.

"I'm normally skeptical of shipping money out and hoping

that it helps these impoverished people," Engelmann said. "But having, a [Hopkins] student that has been there and attested to the fact that the donations are actually helping builds credibility. [Rinnig] will make sure that money goes to [Unatti] for the cause, that we were promised."

Peters' thoughts were similar. "[The Unatti Foundation] is a really great and direct way to distribute money and protection to the generation that really needs it," Peters said.

Rajagopalan especially felt that the cause hit close to home, since she participated in the Date Auction as a representative of a sorority.

"It was a great cause. I'm from a sorority and any cause that empowers women who otherwise cannot receive an education is of particular value," Rajagopalan said.

In the end, Rinnig was the one for whom the Date Auction had the most special value.

"It's great that the Hopkins community can rise to the occasion to support an organization that means a lot to me, through of course, Vision XChange, which consistently raises money, for valuable causes that are enacting and affecting significant change in the world," Rinnig said.

First Hopkins Dance Marathon raises \$4000 for Hopkins Children's Center

By **ALLISON BORKO**
Staff Writer

Hopkins hosted its first Dance Marathon on Friday, April 8th from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in the Ralph S. O'Connor Rec Center.

Dance Marathon was an all-night dance party that challenged the participants to stand on their feet all night long to raise money for The Johns Hopkins Children's Center, which is a local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Approximately 300 participants were able to raise nearly \$4,000. "We were very pleased with the turnout for the first year — we think it's a good foundation and a good starting point for this event to take off in years to come," Vice President of Dance Marathon sophomore Amanda Leininger wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Other schools have had extremely successful Dance Marathons throughout the years.

"This is great considering that we started out with nothing and thus had to fund the entire event as well as raise money," executive Dance Marathon board member junior Maggie McCarthy, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Leininger agreed that the Dance Marathon was successful. "Penn State started their Dance Marathon in 1973 with 39 dance couples and they raised approximately \$2,000. This year they raised over \$9.5 million so that's really encouraging," Leininger wrote.

The marathon was advertised through Facebook, stating on the website that there would be food, contests, giveaways, raffles, dancing and T-shirts. Participants won various prizes including shutter shades, glowsticks, sillybandz, bubble necklaces and Mardi gras beads.

The largest prize raffled off was a two-day pass to Six Flags of America. Student dance groups also performed as entertainment. There were morale leaders to keep people motivated and dancing, and featuring DJs sophomore Alec Fisher, graduate student Junaid Faruq and Jason Heiserman.

"There was on-the-hour choreographed dance by the entire e-board of DM," Fundraising Chair of the executive Dance Marathon board junior Karen Grethlein wrote in an email to



About 300 students participated in the Dance Marathon, which raised money for a local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

The News-Letter.

There were two different ways to raise money for Dance Marathon. At other universities, participants are required to raise a certain amount of money. Instead, Hopkins enacted a letter writing campaign.

"The main way we raised money was throughout a letter writing campaign in which we asked event attendees and members of the executive board to write letters to friends and family asking for donations on behalf of Dance Marathon and the JH Children's Center," McCarthy wrote. "The letter writing campaign was a crucial aspect of DM, as it both raised awareness of the event itself and encouraged donation to our beneficiary — the Johns Hopkins Children Center," wrote Grethlein.

Each participant was encouraged to bring at least five addresses and five stamps to the letter writing campaign in mid-March to send out to their friends and family to ask for donations for staying on their feet for eight hours.

Dance Marathon provided the support letters, so all participants needed to do was personalize and send them out. If participants did not write letters, there was a seven dollar charge to enter Dance Marathon. Dance Marathon tried to encourage people to write letters rather than pay for themselves, but both methods were successful.

Months of planning went into making Dance Marathon the success that it was. "We basically put our heart and soul into making this event happen," Leininger wrote.

President junior Ariel Meranus and Leininger, along with a 22-person executive board, were responsible for planning Dance Marathon and had been working on organizing the event since September.

"Planning-wise there was a lot of effort, as would be expected, because it was Dance Marathon's first year at [Hopkins]. We split up the tasks into different committees (i.e. finance and event planning), and each person had a board position," Grethlein wrote.

Each committee had certain responsibilities. For example, Grethlein was on the fundraising committee and planned two fundraisers at Maxie's. "My committee was responsible for recruiting 'morale leaders' whose job it was to keep everyone excited and on their feet throughout the night, as well as choreograph and teach the Dance Marathon line dance," McCarthy said.

The executive board researched other universities' successful Dance Marathons, and brainstormed at their weekly meetings ways to improve and make the event as great as possible. "We selected DJs and an MC, selected Morale Leaders for the event, choreographed a Mo-

Marketing and public support was an important aspect in the event planning. "We marketed the event through Facebook, mural boards, a promo video, flash ads, flyers, breezeway signs and even distributed promotional t-shirts," Leininger wrote.

This was the first Dance Marathon at Hopkins, but the executive board plans to make it an annual event. In fact, they have already started thinking about improvements for next year. "As this was our first year, it was definitely a learning experience. Mistakes were definitely made, but we learned from all of them," Leininger wrote.

She explained how well the executive board worked together, even under stress, and is very happy with what they accomplished.

"Looking back, having the event start a little later would have been a good idea, and we would have encouraged more people to come — that's one of our goals for next year," Leini-

nger wrote.

However, many people ended up leaving around 1:30 or 2:00 a.m. "Next year, we'll try to incentivize people to remain there for the whole night," McCarthy wrote.

The feedback from participants seems to be all positive. "I liked Dance Marathon because, one, I like to dance and, two, I like helping people, so this was the perfect event for me. There were many games to keep us motivated. My favorite being 'The Floor is Lava!' where if you stop moving, you lose," freshman Katia Charow said.

Freshman Victor Allard also had a good time at the event. "I danced for almost five hours; it was exhausting, but worth it," Allard said.

The executive board members were pleased as well. "Dance Marathon was an amazing start to what I hope becomes a great tradition on the JHU campus," Grethlein wrote.

"Overall, it went really well, especially for our first year, and we only hope that DM will gain more presence on campus to make it an event that everyone really looks forward to," McCarthy wrote.



COURTESY OF LYDIA ALCOCK

Lydia Alcock, a psychology major, tried to capture the essence of Homewood Museum in her works displayed in that same museum.

Student showcases photography exhibition

By **STELLA KIM**
For The News-Letter

Junior Lydia Alcock has a passion for photography. Her own works, *Phantom Callers*, are currently exhibited in the Homewood Museum.

Phantom Callers is a series of 10 black and white photographs that were taken inside of the Homewood Museum. As the title *Phantom Callers* implies, the series of images depict ghostly figures haunting the rooms of Homewood Museum. Alcock herself appears in the photographs as ghosts. She didn't want to subject one of her friends because of the extensive process of shooting in this kind of style. It took many attempts for her to learn the speed at which to walk in front of a camera in a given light condition in order to appear ghost-like.

Alcock is a psychology major and a museums and society minor. Several classes that she took in the museums and society department allowed her to keep her interests intact, eventually leading her to hold an exhibition. "The academic rigor of [Hopkins] has made it difficult to keep up with my creative side, and I have not found as much time for photography in recent years [but] I have been able to continue photography through my minor in museums and society," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

In addition to taking classes in the museum program, Alcock has been a student employee at the Homewood Museum for two years. She has spent a lot of time there, and says that she greatly appreciates her experiences. As a student employee at Homewood Museum, she learned many things from day-to-day operation of a small museum to fundraising efforts. Out of all the tasks that she was given, she most enjoyed the time of opening the wooden widow shutters throughout the house to let light flood into each room in the morning.

"As a photographer, I can never help but admire the way early morning sunlight illuminates the objects within Homewood's collection. I have always enjoyed figuring out how to open

the shutters just so, depending on the weather and how bright it is outside, to achieve a careful balance of light within the museum — a process not dissimilar in principle to creating a photograph in the darkroom. I have often been tempted to photograph Homewood's rich early morning light," Alcock wrote.

Alcock's *Phantom Callers* was originally her final portfolio for the last black and white darkroom photography course offered at [Hopkins] last fall. Her final project was to be series of images of whatever inspired her. "Phantom Callers sprung from what felt like a natural desire to photograph Homewood Museum, a space that I have become very intimate with during my time at Hopkins," Alcock wrote.

Alcock's *Phantom Callers* was also greatly influenced by the human history of Homewood Museum. While working as the Nan Pinkard-Aurelia Bolton intern last summer, Alcock helped Catherine Arthur, the director and curator of Homewood Museum, with research for the fall 2010 exhibition, *Cheers: The Culture of Drink in Early Maryland*.

Part of this research was reading the Carroll family papers, which consisted of a great amount of personal correspondence between the Carrolls, and scouring it for any references to alcohol that could be useful in the exhibition.

"As the past came to life, I tried to picture the ghosts who once walked these halls where so much has happened," Alcock wrote.

Charles Carroll of Homewood began to build the house in 1801. While helping with the research, Alcock came to read many poetry journals of Carroll's wife, Harriet Carroll. "More than anything else, Harriet's poems are able to articulate the mentality behind *Phantom Callers*."

Her exhibition is displayed with excerpts from Harriet's poetry, inviting visitors to see themselves as a continuum of individuals who have walked Homewood's halls. Arthur and other Hopkins Museum staff helped Alcock extensively to turn

a final project into an exhibition.

"Since Lydia's chosen subject was Homewood, and she also chose to explore the poetry journals of Harriet Chew Carroll who lived here, it seemed natural to invite her to display them here. Between the photographs and Harriet's poetic words, the exhibition offers new ways of looking at the museum," Arthur wrote.

According to Arthur, although Homewood Museum has not had a regular schedule of student exhibitions aside from the student-curated exhibition that results each year from the fall Intro to Material Culture Class, the museum staff has begun to discuss how they might launch a more formal annual student exhibition series with a committee to accept proposals from students.

"A contemporary art exhibition is not our typical thing, but we would like to explore the variety of ways in which the 1801 house, the museum collections or the stories of the people who lived here might serve to inspire students to produce contemporary works that respond to Homewood in some way. We hope that there will be future student art exhibitions," Arthur wrote.

Ever since Alcock first learned black and white photography, she instantly loved it. She never lost interest in it, and plans to continue it as a career in the future.

"I loved the darkroom immediately. I developed a fervor for developing the series of tests and experiments involved in making a photograph, the precise amounts of measured light. The mystery of watching an image emerge from a white sheet bathed in chemistry has never lost its magic for me."

"I consider myself a photographer, and photography will always be a part of my life. I plan to pursue a museum career in educational programming and event planning, and hope to find opportunities for photography down that path," Alcock said.

The exhibition will run until June 26th.

Mattin Market brings SGA and students closer

By **RACHEL WITKIN**
News & Features Writer

The SGA and the Office of Student Activities held its first Mattin Center Market of the year last Thursday, April 7. The theme of the event was Arts Day: students decorated their own picture frames and talked to SGA members at the event, which took place in the Mattin Courtyard.

"It's a great way to meet the SGA and express your concerns and ideas," SGA Vice President junior Elizabeth Duval said.

Duval planned last year's Market event.

This year, the event was run by Janet Kirsch, who is in her first year as an intern with the Office of Student Activities as the Special Events Assistant in the Department of Student Life.

"I planned everything and came up with the ideas," Kirsch said. Since it was Kirsch's first year, Duval helped out as well.

The market took place as many students were walking to class. Some stopped by on their way to look at the different booths, do some artwork, or grab a piece of cotton candy.

"Students just pass by the markets and see what they're interested in seeing," Duval said.

Though many students just passed through the market, Du-

val was pleased with the turnout. "There were more students than ever today," she said.

The SGA held the event so that students had the chance to talk to them. Sophomore senator Moses Song made sure that

Modern Dance company's 30th Anniversary concert, which took place on Saturday. She chose to advertise at the market because she knew that there would be lots of students walking by.

"It's really accessible," she said. "There's a lot to walk through."

However, she enjoyed last year's market more. "There were more things last year, more activities and people selling stuff," she said.

The first two markets were canceled due to weather. There will be two more mar-

kets coinciding with the Admitted Students Open House events.

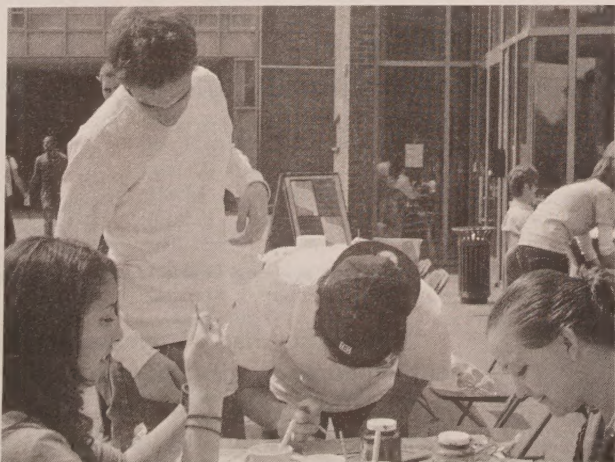
Today will be "Game Day," where there will be a pitching booth and games such as Twister for students to play.

April 28th will be "Luau Day," where there will be activities such as sand art for students to partake in.

SGA members will be at both markets to talk to students.

Duval predicts that there will be a large turnout in the next two markets, especially because this market went so well.

"It's exciting. It's sunny and beautiful outside, [a great day] to see the market," she said.



COURTESY OF VINGUYEN

The SGA sought to use the opportunity to interact with the student body.

there were plenty of members at the market.

"People just come by and ask what we've been doing," he said.

There were also many student groups who advertised their events at the markets. Sophomore Danielle Lohan handed out flyers for The Barnstormers' production of *Evita*. "A lot of people came by, so it's really easy to [give out fliers]," she said.

She went to the market her freshman year and felt that it definitely improved this year. "I like that [the theme] is arts now," she said.

Junior Joanna Craig was also giving out flyers for the JHU

NEWS & FEATURES

Ultimate Frisbee team offers unique way for students to have fun

By KATHERINE SIMEON
Staff Writer

It is a cool, sunny, windless day in the middle of spring. Two different teams dart back and forth across the field looking for the Frisbee. In the second half of the game, a player hucks the disc to another, who is barely in reach. The second player dives into the end zone catching the Frisbee, winning the game.

Although considered a rare miraculous moment to some, it is not uncommon for the Hopkins men's ultimate team. With a 35-person roster, the ultimate team, who calls themselves "Dangerzone," fiercely takes on its opponents.

"Ultimate Frisbee is probably a lot different than people imagine," wrote George Lin, a senior and chairman of the ultimate team, in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "It is a lot more rigorous than pickup that most people have played. We have set offenses and multiple defensive strategies for different situations. The one thing that most people miss is the amount of running that players have to do on the field."

The team's uniforms and equipment are decked with the ferocious "Sharktopus" — a creature with the head of the shark and the tentacles of an octopus, which serves as the team's logo. This was inspired by a fellow team member's Halloween costume a few years ago, according to Lin.

The ultimate team usually practices twice a week on the Wyman Park Fields. A typical practice consists of a dynamic warm-up, drills that focus on particular skills and scrimmaging.

"Everybody on the field is

running all the time, unless you have the Frisbee," freshman ultimate player David Dorsch said. "You need to be constantly running."

"People are often surprised by the fast pace and athletic nature of our sport," wrote senior Captain Shane Steinert-Threlkeld in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "It provides a great outlet for those looking for a competitive outlet in an atmosphere that also builds friendship and trust."

The team competes in both the fall and spring semesters, with usually four to six competitions per semester against other teams

"With Frisbee, it's supposed to be very sportsmanlike," Dorsch said. "Everything is just for fun. It requires a lot of sportsmanship, and we conduct ourselves as very civilized people."

The team has garnered significant success in their competitive season. In 2009, they won the High Tide Tournament, an annual three-day tournament in Ga. that occurs during spring break.

The Hopkins ultimate team was established in 1989, and was co-ed until 2000, when the women's team was large enough to split off into its own entity. The women's ultimate team, the "Blue Footed Boobies," has a different competition schedule and is in a different league from the men's team.

Being part of the ultimate team has provided a rewarding experience for the students involved. It has helped the players build strong relationships throughout their years at Hopkins.

"The favorite part of being on the team is the people I play with," Lin wrote. "They are among my closest friends here at Hopkins. Even though we spend a lot of time at practices and at tournaments, I still enjoy hanging out with them in my free time, whether it be watching the game at a team member's place or grabbing a beer at CVP at random times."

The upperclassmen see themselves as role models and the underclassmen as pivotal parts of the future. Regardless, both ends of the spectrum have learned from being on the team together.

"The team has placed their trust and respect in me," Steinert-Threlkeld wrote. "I always try to lead by example on the field and not ask anything of my players that I would not ask of myself. Being captain has made me realize two things: (1) a leader of an organization really can impact many

aspects of how it functions, but (2) making substantial changes to the culture of an organization that has existed for a long time requires more than one year. Building off of these two observations, being captain has meant that I can try and build a team of respectful young men while at the same

time [set] a foundation for the future when I'm gone."

The ultimate team's next competition is this weekend on April 15 and 16 in the Colonial Ultimate Spring League. Here, Dangerzone will be competing against American University, University of Delaware, George Washington Uni-

versity, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, UMBC, Salisbury University and Towson University. The team is always open to new members and invites anyone interested to watch the regular practices and attend the open practices that the team hosts at the beginning of each school year.



COURTESY OF DAVID DORSCH
Daniel Miller (right) blocks a frisbee pass. The team has seen success in the past year.



COURTESY OF DAVID DORSCH
Captain of the team Steinert-Threlkeld (center) prepares to catch from a team member. Their next competition is next weekend.

Phi Psi 500 raises \$2,000 for spinal cancer

By ABIGAIL HARRI
Staff Writer

After two years of battling the tumors dotted up and down his spinal cord, Demetri Demeropoulos passed away last May. He was 18 years old.

Demeropoulos was a close friend of sophomores Harrison Johnson and Chris Schilling.

"Demetri was my best friend in first grade, the first kid I ever had a sleepover with," sophomore Harrison Johnson said.

Both Phi Kappa Psi brothers, Johnson and Schilling steered their fraternity's annual philanthropy event — Phi Psi 500 — toward With Demetri's Help, a foundation set up in Demeropoulos's name. It is invested in raising money and gaining awareness for spinal cord research.

The foundation will donate all funds raised to Dr. George Jallo, the leader of a team performing progressive surgeries for children with spinal cord tumors through Johns Hopkins medicine.

Jallo and his team were able to extend Demeropoulos's life beyond what it would have been without their efforts.

"He was the one who operated on Demetri so we wanted to give a thank you back to him and anything we could contribute to help his research and help other children who have spinal cord tumors," Johnson said.

The events included a barbecue on the beach, a 3v3 basketball tournament including teams comprised of Baltimore police officers and an after party at Phi Psi's fraternity house. Phi Psi 500 raised almost \$2,000 for the charity.

"It's different when you're raising money in the name of your friends than if you're doing it for an anonymous organization... I wanted to do as best as I could for him," Schilling said.

Johnson sent an e-mail to his Phi Psi brothers explaining his and Schilling's relation to the cause, extending his attachment to the charity to the rest of the fraternity.

This personal aspect of the event was one that he thinks should be continued in planning future events.

"I think that draws the brotherhood closer together when everyone is helping out a brother and they know how important it is," Johnson said.

This motivation carried over to the attendees of the events, especially at the after party, where they were less reluctant to give over the five dollar entrance fee than usual.

The story of William Henry Letterman and Charles Page Thomas Moore, the founders of Phi Psi, was one of the major influences which drew Schilling and Johnson to the fraternity. The men cared for their classmates

when a typhoid epidemic hit Jefferson College.

The next year, they started Phi Psi based on "the great joy of serving others."

"At that time, Demetri was still sick and [the story] really struck a chord with me," Schilling said.

Schilling and Johnson remained in contact with Demetri's family over the course of the events. Schilling recounted his favorite moment of the weekend: being able to call Demetri's parents after the events were over and the money was counted.

"I got to talk to them about everything and hear about how they were happy with what we were doing and really proud of everyone for coming out and supporting a good cause," Schilling said.

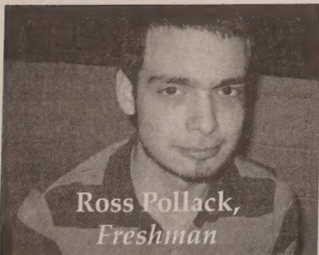
Schilling and Johnson ended the events feeling thankful for the support from the Hopkins community and satisfied with their results. The \$2,000 raised is an accent of hope for the future in the midst of an emotional loss of the past.

"[Demetri] was the kid who would crack a joke or make us laugh even when he could hardly move in the hospital bed. He was one of my best friends and a great person," Johnson said. "We were trying to be proactive in his memory... [and] it was heartwarming to see what kind of support we could draw."

Man on the Street

SPRING FAIR:

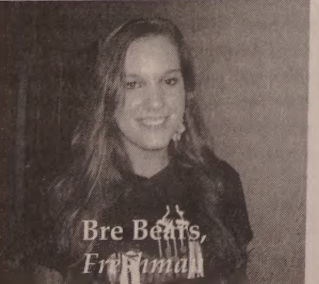
What do you think of Chiddy Bang headlining the Spring Fair concert?



Ross Pollack,
Freshman



Helen Latimer,
Freshman



Bre Bears,
Freshman

"Couldn't we get somebody better? I've never heard of them. We had Wiz Khalifa for something else, why couldn't we get someone like that? I'm not going to go."

"I think it's interesting that right after we got Wiz Khalifa, we got Chiddy Bang, so that's really exciting because those are two guys that I like a lot. I'm looking forward to the concert! I want them to get Das Racist, too."

"I actually don't know anything about it. I know that people are really excited about it. I'm not sure if I'm going, but because everyone will be there and it's something to do for Spring Fair, I'm probably going to go."



Shannon Cebon,
Sophomore



Dorothy Kim,
Freshman



Paige Doyle,
Freshman

"I wish they had gotten someone I'd heard of. One of the people on the staff was telling me if they didn't spend a lot of the headliner, they would have more money to do other stuff for Spring Fair. But I'm not going to go, because I don't know who they are."

"For me it wasn't a main attraction, because he's kind of on the side in my musical tastes. He's mainstream, and he pops up in remixes, but that's not the reason I'm going to the concert. But I'll probably go!"

"I think it's going to be a great performance, and I'm definitely going. But, since so many people don't know his music, it would have been nice if they'd gotten someone more well-known as the headliner"

NEWS & FEATURES



COURTESY OF SARAH TAN

Brooks has visited Russia many times over the past few decades and has experienced the country under communism.

Things I've Learned with Jeffrey Brooks

By SARAH TAN
Editor-In-Chief

Jeffrey Brooks is a professor of Russian history, specializing in Russian literature and culture. He is the author of the book, *When Russia Learned to Read*, and he is currently working on another upcoming book called *Russia in the Age of Genius*. He has spent time traveling through Soviet Russia and has experienced its transition to a capitalist society. He took some time out of his schedule to sit down with *The News-Letter* to talk about what life was like in communist Russia, from buying illegal Russian trinkets to being followed by the KGB.

News-Letter (N-L): How did you get interested in Russian studies?

Jeffrey Brooks (JB): Well, I was in high school and I read Russian writers, and I thought this is so exciting and wonderful, and then when I was in college, Russia seemed so exotic. There it was, the Soviet Union, and we were in the midst of the Cold War. It was just exciting and exotic, so I took Russian in college, found it difficult, I confess, and I thought well, maybe I should go to grad school, and the teachers at college said to me, 'if you got a grant, would you go to grad school?' And I said 'okay'; someone would pay me to read books, why not.

I decided to focus on the conjunction of literature and history, and that became the thing that I mostly worked on, the history of Russian culture.

N-L: When was the first time that you went to Russia?

JB: Sometime in the late '70s. The first time I went, I had a Fulbright to Finland because Finland had very good library resources, and the exchange with the Soviet Union was very small and it was hard to get on it. So my first visit to Russia was a trip from Finland to Russia where I spent a couple of weeks with instructions from my Finnish friends to bring back as much vodka as possible. So I had an interesting time there; I walked around, I talked to people, and then the second time I went, I went on the scholarly exchange. It was called the scientific exchange, and I was there for 9 or 10 months, and I lived in Moscow State University, and I lived in a dorm room.

N-L: How have you seen Russia change over the different times that you've visited, and what was it like being an American in Russia for the first time?

JB: Well, being an American in Russia, if you were on this foreign exchange, it meant you were followed by the KGB because they wanted to know what contacts you were making. They were also very interested in your attitude towards the Soviet Union because they tended to reward people who were friendly and punish people who were hostile. I was very critical. I wasn't particularly friendly, but I traveled around the country quite a bit, and the people who helped us with travel, they were obviously reporting to the police.

In a country such as the Soviet Union, there are always people that oppose the idea of having scientific exchanges with the west because they thought of them as bringing in the class enemy, so those people were very eager to embarrass the exchange if at all possible.

N-L: Was Russia any different from what you expected it to be?

JB: It was very different, it

was full of all sorts of interesting people: on the one hand, there were a lot of educated people who were just eager to make contact with foreigners, particularly Americans. There were people who collected every bit of Americana they could get their hands on from stamps to records. The country, the system retained many of its attributes: the same fearfulness for saying the wrong thing, mixing with foreigners, doing anything to publicize disagreement with the regime. People were punished for that right up until when Gorbachev came in. I would say that there was more and more contact with foreigners and it became less exotic as time went on.

Of course when the Soviet system began to collapse, all sorts of strange things happened. Suddenly people could speak their mind, [and] a flood of western culture materials came into the country, so one of the features of Soviet economic life that included culture was the monopoly on foreign trade. So there was very little that was not officially scrutinized that came into Russia. But when communism began to fall, suddenly everything was there, Freud, pornography, Winnie the Pooh — they were all being sold side to side with the uniforms of Soviet generals and flags. People were very poor at the end, the money lost a lot of its value, there was a collapse in pensions, people were selling all sorts of things, [and] it was a very strange and difficult time.

N-L: Did it ever feel dangerous to be in Russia?

JB: I would say generally it was very safe. I think it's more dangerous now than it was in Soviet times; in Soviet times it was very well controlled. If you took the metro, there was a police station at every metro stop and when you got at the top of the escalator, there was generally a woman who made sure you weren't too drunk to get on the metro, and at the bottom of the escalator if you were a troublemaker, you would be arrested by a militia man. Now it's less safe.

N-L: Do you think that attitudes towards Americans have gotten better?

JB: No, much worse. There was a lot of friendliness towards Americans under the Soviet system; now there's a lot of xenophobia, Russian skinheads, Russian fascists, [and] there are a lot of attacks on people who don't look Russian, whether they're from Asia, [are] African Americans, [or] Africans. There's a lot of racism that's broken out that's now in public life.

N-L: Do you have any interesting stories from Russia?

JB: When I first went to Russia on the scientific exchange, I was sent to meet a woman named Anya who was a casualty of the war in many ways. She was supposed to be an Egyptologist, but in the war she became something else and was never able to get back to it; [however,] she was supposed to be able to help me find books that I was able to buy, so I went to see her with my wife, and she said, "I can't talk with you because I have to go someplace afterwards," and then she said "On second thought, I'll take you with me, my little chickens."

So she took us with her to the outskirts of Moscow to a top floor apartment where there was someone named Siriyosha who collected folk toys, which was what she collected, and Siriyosha had a wild Siberian cat, and he was selling stuff illegally out of this really empty apartment with no fur-

niture. The way the sale worked was that he painted terrible icons, and he would show you his collection of toys. You would pick out the toys that you wanted and you would pick out a painting and the price of the painting equaled the price of the toys because otherwise he would have been selling something illegally, and this way it was sort of a grey area. He was selling you the painting and giving you the toys as a present.

So there we were in the middle of a blinding snowstorm at the top of this place with Anya who had taken us under her wing as her little chickens, and watching her purchase these toys. And my wife became interested in collecting these toys and under her shepherding she ended up with quite a nice collection. These were clay toys that peasants made during the winter, and what we witnessed was the beginning of the intelligentsia's fascination with folk culture, which was something that happened in the 1970s. That was a wonderful moment.

Then the alternative moment was the moment of being followed around by the secret police. Of course I was often followed, and as someone who walks very slowly, I saw it as their punishment because ... [they would have] to follow me when it was 25 below. So I would get off the subway to visit some friend, and I'd look back and there would be an elderly lady following me. And I do recall one time going into a friend's apartment and looking down over the stairs and what did I see? I saw the woman that's been following me looking up trying to figure out what apartment I was going into.

N-L: Was it scary to be followed?

JB: Not really because these elderly women who were half frozen were hardly threatening. It made one angry and of course since I was obviously hardly spry enough to escape from being followed, I would just lead them on a long and painful following, [and] I would switch metros multiple times, but they had no problem keeping up with me. It's just that they were sorry that I didn't make it simple.

N-L: Why do you think that Russian culture is so important in America?

JB: You have Borodin, you have Shostakovich, the ballet rus, Russian painting. I would say that Russian culture in its great age is ... worth studying because it's one of the great world cultures.

Unfortunately, Stalin destroyed the structures upon which it was based, and Russian culture is now interesting, but it's no more powerful than any other. In an age of globalization, it's just another culture, it's not one of the most powerful cultures. Russian culture in its great age is something that everyone should partake [in]. I mean how can you be educated without reading Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, or to know modern art without seeing Malevich?

N-L: Are you planning on visiting Russia again soon?

JB: Right now I have no plans to visit since I just visited last year and now I need to focus on finishing my book. I might go back. I'm not sure. Life is full of surprises. Russia has been a really interesting place to study — I mean to be there in a time of capitalism where nobody cared a jot if you bought anything from their store, and when you could look around and some people were still wearing their old military coats from the war. Russia was a huge power, and it hasn't lost it yet.

Hopkins In 300 Words

Mason Hall, 10 a.m., Wednesday: Accepted students day

By DANIELLE STERN
Staff Writer

I woke up at 7:30 a.m. this morning, the earliest that I have woken up in over three weeks, to take my place as a greeter for the SOHOP program in Mason Hall. Eagerly awaiting admitted high school seniors, I picked a chair in the lobby, one with a prime view of both entrances, and waited. And waited, and waited, and waited.

Finally, 30 minutes later, Ben from Santa Monica, Calif. walked through the imposing french doors. I quickly sprung out of my seat and ran over to shake his hand. "Hi, welcome to Hopkins! My name is Danielle, nice to meet you!" I shuttled Ben over to Kandice, the Mason-Levering walker, who took him to the Great Hall to check in and drop off his luggage. I returned to my seat. And waited.

In the coming half hour, a few prospective high school juniors on a tour trickled in, no-

ticeably intimidated by the over-excited SOHOP girl coming up to mistakenly greet them. Two buses came in from BWI airport, filled with weary-eyed Californians and Ohians that had recently landed on a red eye. I chatted with some Admissions Representatives and tour guides, and recited out loud the Italian presentation that I was to give in less than two hours.

My friend Renee came over to join me — another Mason Hall greeter without anyone to greet. We leafed through some admissions pamphlets and took a post by the doors on either side of the building. A bus pulled up from Penn Station, this one brimming with admitted students from the Northeast, and I introduced myself once more.

I directed them to Kandice who sent them on their way, stood at the door facing the tremendous tent on Decker Quad and watched them walk towards the next four years of their lives.



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Provost Lloyd B. Minor and Dean Katherine Newman
Cordially invite you to attend

PROVOST'S LECTURE SERIES

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King Fahd Professor of Medicine, Molecular Biology & Genetics, and Oncology
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APRIL 25, 2011

4:30 PM

50 Gilman Hall

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3400 North Charles St.

Q & A Session and
Reception to Follow

RSVP to ProvostRSVP@jhu.edu

THE EPIGENETIC BASIS OF COMMON HUMAN DISEASE

SYNOPSIS: Epigenetics is the study of information, heritable during cell division, other than the DNA sequence itself, such as DNA methylation, a covalent modification of cytosine. We have been taking an integrated approach to catalyze the generalization of gene-specific to genomic epigenetics, and to advance the focus in this field from cancer to common disease generally. Doing this requires integration of new conceptual, technological, epidemiological and statistical approaches, and through strong collaboration with experts in these fields. An exciting new direction of our research is the discovery of developmentally important sites of stochastic epigenetic variation in the genome that may be linked to important traits such as body mass index. This same idea of stochastic epigenetic variation has also influenced our studies of the cancer epigenome, with some surprising results regarding common mechanisms for altered DNA methylation in cancer, as well as for chromatin organization, with immediate translational implications.

For more information: http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/lecture_series.html

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA discusses Aramark conflict

By JUSTIN LI
Staff Writer

At Tuesday's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, a bill was discussed that would announce SGA support of the Aramark workers in their contract negotiations with Aramark. The bill called for a fair and responsible contract to be negotiated between Aramark and its workers. The bill was met with significant opposition by SGA members who felt that either the SGA should remain neutral or that the SGA had insufficient information on the situation to form a conclusion.

"This is basically to recognize student awareness and student support," sophomore senator Archie Henry, the bill's sponsor, said. "We're not taking a drastic step, but we're calling for a fair and just contract for workers."

Henry cited and referenced in his bill the petition Aramark workers had been soliciting students to sign in the past week as an indication that a significant portion of the student body supported the Aramark workers. According to that clause, over 900 students had signed the petition.

Some members of the SGA sought to amend the bill to reflect a more neutral position.

"The only stance we can take is that we advocate that this be resolved quickly and fairly. We shouldn't be taking a side," Executive President Mark Dirzula said.

Some felt neutral amendments should be made to protect the SGA from future backlash as the situation develops and others felt the SGA should not support either side, but rather support the fair resolution of the situation.

"As the voice of the students, [the contract negotiation] has the potential of getting in the way of food service," senior senator Max Dworin said. "It

doesn't matter who's at fault, who's more in the right or who's more in the wrong. What matters is that they get it done so that our food service won't be affected."

Questions were raised as to whether or not the SGA was aware of all the facts, given that the contract negotiations are confidential and that the SGA was only receiving information about the situation from the position of the workers due to Aramark's unwillingness to talk to the SGA. Concerns were voiced over how strongly the SGA should consider the petition despite not having seen the petition's exact wording yet themselves.

"It seems like nobody has any idea what's going on," Dworin said. "I don't even see why something should even be passed until we have definitive answers to questions like 'What is actually going on?'"

Several amendments were made to the bill that eliminated clauses that members felt were too supportive of one side including the reference to the petition.

Some members advocated for the altered bill on the grounds that it was sufficiently neutral and that it merely declared SGA's support for fairness.

"It's not controversial for us to support a resolution to something that's distracting from good service," a member of the SGA countered.

After a lengthy discussion, the bill was tabled for further discussion at the following week's meeting. In the interim, SGA members were tasked by Senior Class President Josh Ayal with gathering further information and to form their final opinions on the bill, which is to be voted on at the next meeting. Junior Class President Ardi Mendoza, a co-sponsor of the bill, offered to rework the bill with Henry for next week's meeting and to acquire a copy of the petition for the SGA's evaluation.

City Briefs



PHOTO COURTESY ABOUTLAWASUITS.COM

Lead paint devastates Baltimore residents

Twelve million dollars is being given to Baltimore residents whose homes were painted with poisonous lead paint. Baltimore City faces more than 800 cases of people suing the state for the approval of the paint from the Maryland health lab, yet Housing Authority proclaims that they are not able to meet the money asked for. While Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke believes it is the state's obligations to make the payments, Councilwoman Belinda Conway admits to being rather uninformed of the issue.

Hartford priest admits guilty of child abuse

Last week, Reverend Donald W. Belcherin of an Episcopal church in Hartford, Conn. pleaded guilty of sexually abusing two girls. The 82-year-old man's final sentence will take place on June 28th of this year. The first victim, who was eight years old, was abused in 2006 while the latest victim, who was 15 years old, was abused in 2010. In 2007, Belcherin had retired from the church and managed a bar in Mont., until his arrest in December of 2010.

Maryland to host annual film festival

From May 5 to May 8, more than 115 films will be shown at theatres in Baltimore. The genre of films ranges from foreign films to documentaries about Filipino teachers in Baltimore school systems. This festival is the first time each of the films has been presented in the Baltimore region. One of the documentaries to be showcased is "Ne Change Rien," by a critically acclaimed Portuguese filmmaker called Pedro Costa. Festival Director Jed Diaz says that they have been planning for the event since last year's festival finished.



New cruise passenger bridge

A new passenger bridge for the Mid Atlantic Port in Baltimore finished its construction this week. The \$2.9 million structure was custom-built in Spain. It is used by cruise passengers of more than 122 just this year. Its advanced technology allows it to withstand 50 mph winds. In comparison, older bridges are unable to be used in mere 25 mph.

Maryland law to increase alcohol tax and tuition breaks for illegal immigrants

Monday night, the General Assembly passed two groundbreaking laws. One increases the sales tax for alcohol from 6 to 9 percent, and the second allows illegal immigrants who went to Md. high schools for at least three years to pay in-state tuition at community colleges. The higher alcohol tax is predicted to bring in 85 million dollars of state revenue. Bills on possible construction of casino slots, studies of the medical use of marijuana and monitoring of prescription drugs were sent to the governor's desk.

Whistling oyster's owner evicted

A bar located in Fell's Point has been closed because owner Judie Butler did not pay her rent and was kicked out of her home. Since last Tuesday, the bar has been officially closed. Her ex-boyfriend, who used to help her manage the bar, may possibly start up the popular hangout spot next month. Butler claims that she will not return to living in the bar because it is haunted by ghosts. Landlord Amanda Sanchez promises that when the bar reopens it will be staffed with a better menu and service.

Ashley Tisdale poses nude

Disney star Ashley Tisdale approved of the publication of nude pictures of herself in *Allure* magazine. Her mother approved of the pictures that are to be printed in the yearly nude edition of the magazine. Tisdale claims that the pictures showcase to the public that she is no longer a young girl acting in child and pre-teen movies such as "High School Musical."

who are looking to have casual sex to communicate over the Internet. *Eduhookups.com's* popularity has spread to the student bodies at Northwestern University and Columbia College Chicago. By the beginning of April, it was available for students at Brown University as well. This not only gives students the chance to have sexual relations with no strings attached, but also gives the University of Chicago a more care-free reputation. The motto of the website is, "Chastity is curable if detected early."



PHOTO COURTESY COURANT.COM

Planned parenthood funding

Since the government is on the brink of a shutdown, Congress is deciding whether or not to continue funding Planned Parenthood. Debates are over what exactly the programs do for women who may or may not be pregnant. The actual debate of the funding is maintaining the current spending of the government. It is predicted that once the issue of the federal financial support of Planned Parenthood is decided, the decision to shutdown or not will ensue.

UConn defeats Butler in NCAA Championship

More than 70,000 spectators gathered at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas on April 3rd and watched as UConn's team beat Butler's team 53-41. Predicted to win, UConn definitely played better than the opposing team. Unfortunately, this is Butler's second time making it to the final game and losing. Last year, Butler lost to Duke. With only a 18 percent shooting percentage, the team did not perform its best. UConn, on the other hand, finished the game with a 34 percent shooting percentage that won them the trophy.

Police continue to search for Long Island serial killer

The number of possible victims is now 10 after the cops found yet another skull on the New York beaches this Monday. Investigators believe that the killer was familiar with the area. The stretch of long beaches covered in brush was ideal for the hiding of the bodies. Families of the victims reach out through Facebook, and a memorial for 22-year-old victim Megan Waterman will take place on June 11th.

Texas government in the works of passing concealed handgun bill

Legislatures believe that a bill allowing students and faculty to carry handguns on campus should be passed. As long as the individual is over 21 and has a license to carry weapons, they will be able to carry it around with them on a college campus. Students and universities are voicing opposition against the proposed bill.

Some argue that universities should be given the power to decide whether or not the bill applies to their campus. Others believe that the passing of the bill will not decrease the amount of violence on campus.

Many believe that if this bill is passed, the violence will increase.

—Briefs by Laura Flynn

Flash mob fails to impress

The Student Traditions Board (STB) attempted to institute a new student tradition during the pre-freshman overnight stay yesterday.

"Our goal at the Student Traditions Board as a whole is to maintain the old traditions that we have here at Hopkins, and to create new ones as well," sophomore STB member Ben Wasser said.

The new tradition was in the form of a flash mob in which a group of people quickly descended upon a location and started doing something out of the ordinary—in this case, blowing bubbles.

Other traditions started by the STB include an impromptu water balloon fight.

"The thing is, the people at Hopkins want to come out and want to do these things, but they are always waiting for somebody else to do it," Wasser said. "So it is our job, I guess, to be the first one to go down and do it, and hopefully other people will pick up our example."

The Student Traditions Board ran the event yesterday in front of the Levering Courtyard at 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. At the given time, a group of students showed up and started blowing bubbles. Among these students was sophomore Nick Depaul, the organizer of this whole event.

The total cost for planning and carrying out the event was roughly \$200, which according to dePaul, was overpriced because not enough people showed up.

"[The Flash Mob] was not meant to be. It was just one off," he said.

—By Seung Hyun Oh

Dean Newman hosts Vietnam War panel

Dean Newman addressed a group of largely film students Wednesday on the role films have played in the view of the Vietnam War.

Driver who hit Krasnopoler ticketed

This Tuesday, a woman who hit student biker Nathan Krasnopoler near the Homewood campus was charged with traffic violations. A \$10 million lawsuit against driver Jeannette Marie Walke is being filed on behalf of the victim's family by law firm Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White. Krasnopoler is in a coma, currently under the care of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

NEWS & FEATURES



The new SGA Executive Board consists of, from left to right, Annie Scavelli as Secretary, Joanna Gawlick as Treasurer, Ardi Mendoza as President, and Wyatt Larkin as Vice President.

SGA Executive Board elected for next year

In highest voter turnout in the school's history, Ardi Mendoza elected SGA president

SGA ELECTION, FROM A1
competitors, sophomore Nick Trenton and sophomore Stephanie Valarezo, by 498 to 438 and 326 votes, or 30 percent to 26 percent and 20 percent of the total votes, respectively. The remaining two candidates, junior Thomas (TJ) Bozada and Andrew Cappuchino, each earned 158 and 95 votes respectively, or 10 percent and 6 percent of the total votes.

Scavelli defeated her competitor, freshmen Alex Dash, by 789 to 561 votes, or 47 percent to 34 percent of the total votes.

Vote percentages do not add to 100 percent due to abstentions and write-in candidates. Complete statistical data on the Executive Elections can be found at the SGA website: www.jhusga.com

Many of the winners were pleased with how the election progressed.

"I'm very, very happy. I felt the other ticket and everyone in the field did a great job about campaigning," Mendoza said. "A lot of good issues were brought up. And the amount of voter turnout shows we're going in the right direction."

"I'm certainly honored that the Student Body chose me to be next year's SGA treasurer. I think that this year had a particularly talented and motivated pool of candidates for all positions and I really enjoyed the race," Gawlick wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "Serving on the Executive board will allow me to act on many of the changes that I would like to see at Hopkins; I feel lucky to have such a great opportunity."

"It's a great feeling to have won! Introducing myself and my ideas to students I did not know seems to have paid off and it is very rewarding to see the results," Scavelli wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Unfortunately for Larkin, the joy of his victory was dampened by the disqualification of his competitor, Junior Class Senator Scott Barrett.

"I am not really celebrating because I won by default, but I am pleased that my ticket and I ran a good, honest campaign. I guess that is worth being proud of," Larkin wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Barrett, who was running for Vice President, was disqualified after the SGA's Committee for Student Elections (CSE) found Barrett to have violated one of the election rules by utilizing the list server of Mike Mattia, the Hopkins Athletic Director, to mass e-mail student athletes about his campaign.

"[Barrett] had the athletic director send out a mass e-mail on his behalf to all the student athletes telling them to vote for him," Rohit Dayal, Head Chair of CSE, said.

One of the candidates reported the violation to the CSE and after review, decided to disqualify him from the election.

"It was a clear-cut decision — direct or indirect utilization of services to gain votes," Dayal said.

Dayal explained that the reasoning behind the rule is to ensure fair elections. One candidate being able to repeatedly mass message a large portion of the student body gives him a distinct

and unfair advantage over other campaigns. With athletes representing 20 percent of the student body and the self-promotional content of the e-mail, the CSE agreed that it was a violation of the rule.

However, Barrett argued that, according to the wording of the CSE Constitution, no violation had occurred. Article 7, Section (iv), which Barrett had been accused of violating, states that "No candidate may use any list-serv or mass emailing services of student groups or organizations in which Johns Hopkins undergraduates are members of."

Barrett argued that the e-mail that Mattia had sent was not sent via either listserv, a server in which an e-mail sent to the single address sends the e-mail to all names listed in that server, or a mass e-mailing service or third party bulk e-mail programs, but by Mattia individually entering each name into the e-mail and was therefore not a violation.

The Judiciary of the SGA felt that while not a violation by the letter, Barrett's actions were still encompassed by them.

"By definition you did not utilize a listserv or mass emailing service, however the Judiciary believes that the spirit of this section does indeed cover emails of your type," the Judiciary Board wrote in its reply to Barrett's appeal. Barrett argued that violation of the "spirit" of a rule was insufficient grounds for disqualification. He argued further that the large margin he won by, 129 votes, was a serious disenfranchisement of student votes.

"The fact that I won by this many votes signifies that I'm the Vice President the school wants," Barrett said.

Larkin, however, felt the e-mails may have been responsible for Barrett's victory in the votes.

"Because Scott's violation was on such a large scale, it is impossible to know how the race would have turned out if we had both played by the rules; undoubtedly it would have been close," Larkin wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Barrett refuted the claim that the e-mail Mattia had sent was responsible for his victory.

"[Of the 600 that received the e-mail] no shot 140 voted strictly because of that e-mail," Barrett said.

Controversy aside, each winner revealed a dedication and passion for their positions in the SGA.

"From years of past student government experience and involvement in various groups on campus, the SGA's involvement in my own activities is integral. My campaign for secretary became my desire to take on a proactive role, rather than just an onlooker of this involvement," Scavelli wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"When SGA has good internal cooperation and communication, we tend to get things done quickly, and done well. I would like to see us in that mode all the time next year, and I think I have a good shot at making the changes that will facilitate that," Larkin wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"As member of the Executive board, I will have the opportunity

to work directly with administrators in shaping life at Hopkins, which will provide me with a great opportunity to communicate student concerns and ideas directly with the administration (an opportunity that was more rare as a senator)," Gawlick wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"[Being Executive President] is a better chance to contact the administration and see things from the top . . . I can hopefully take a more active role in dictating policy for next year . . . A lot of ideas get lost to the wayside. I want to take my role as leader of the student government to make sure everyone stays on task," Mendoza said.

Mendoza, Larkin and Gawlick ran on a platform composed of four main points: improving student services, improving academic services, addressing security concerns and increasing events and funding. Some of their specific points included creating an off-campus housing database, improving vegetarian dining options, creating moderately priced upperclassmen meal plans, making ISIS more student friendly, reforming the Merlin course evaluation system, addressing traffic concerns on and near campus and providing busing to events in the Baltimore/DC area.

Their detailed platform can be found online at: www.jhusga2011.com

Although the new Executive Board will not assume their new positions until the first day of the fall semester, the new Executive Board members plan to begin meeting informally as early as next week to begin discussions on potential goals and plans for the upcoming academic year.

"We can do plenty this semester and especially during the summer to lay the groundwork," Mendoza said. "By the end of the year we can have quantifiable improvements."

Mendoza mentioned three specific goals he currently has in mind: establishing an Executive budget; reforming internal redundancies within the SGA and its interactions with the students, specifically the SGA website and making it more useful to students and beginning to work immediately with the Hopkins administration on goals and plans for next year to better coordinate the efforts of the two groups.

Larkin remarked on the specifics of internal SGA reform.

"There are some problems with how the finance system is structured within the organization, and some institutionalized communication issues that can all be fixed rather easily. Because I have witnessed these issues from both the senate and the exec board side, I should be in a good position to fix them as VP," Larkin wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Additionally, the new Executive Board plans to survey student groups to receive input on his goals.

"Through the summer, we intend to talk with student groups to get an idea of how they feel about our platform," Mendoza said.

This year's Executive Elections received a record number of votes, a result Dayal attributed to

the efforts of both the candidates and the CSE.

"The two main candidates did a lot of campaigning," Dayal said.

Dayal described how the ticket of Mendoza, Larkin, Gawlick and Dash collaborated to create a YouTube video outlining their platform and how the ticket consisting of Kirk Sabnani utilized lawn signs to advertise for its campaign.

"This year had two intense tickets," Dirzulaitis said.

Similarly the CSE stepped up its efforts to advertise about the elections.

"We put a full page ad [in *The News-Letter*] showing who all the candidates were," Dayal said. While newspaper advertisements were a new tactic this year, the SGA also employed an old tactic of e-mail reminders during voting period too.

"Dayal asked me to release [an e-mail] at the beginning of voting period, the middle and seven hours before voting closed," Dirzulaitis said, regarding a regularly used promotional tactic by the CSE.

"It was important to have a bunch of people that are campaigning hard and have a large social network," Dirzulaitis said. "A lot of people felt they had a stake in the election . . . [otherwise they'd be] less motivated to vote."

Dayal noted that the increase seen this year has been part of a trend of increasing voter turnout over the past two years.

"The last two years I've been on the committee we've been making efforts to increase turnout," Dayal said. "Two years ago, voter turnout was 26 percent; one year ago, it was 30 percent."

"I'm really happy with the trend. The reason I ran freshmen year was to increase student involvement," Mendoza said.

"I think this is a great start for things that will only improve in the future. I want to thank everyone for this upward trend of student involvement."

Pre-frosh see the social side of Hopkins

PRE-FROSH, FROM A1
a 30-foot tall inflatable Blue Jay and a performance from San Diego based DJ Milkman.

"The departure this year is fuelled by the feedback over recent years from both admitted and

prospective students that the programs just weren't structured to give prospective students the opportunity to see 24/7 life at Hopkins," Dean for Enrollment Services Bill Conley said. "It was too limited to academics. We really wanted to address more broadly life outside the classroom . . . and enroll more students with not just academic strength but [those] who are interested inside and outside the classroom."

With the open house program expanding so drastically from previous years, some students have expressed concerns that the increase in spending could be spent better or, even worse, poached directly from other student groups.

"All I know is that they definitely didn't do this when I came last year," freshman Chloe Ryan said.

Conley dismisses these concerns.

"We did not request an increase in our budget; rather what we did was realign commitments," he said. "We used to print a lot more print material; now, we have less print material, and put more online and on blogs. People are coming to us and we don't have to pump the inquiry pool much anymore — we're just shifting the resources to the end of the process. These are the students we admitted and it makes more sense to put our dollars there."

"I'm not going to quote any amount; this is a budget that we have and we're using in a mix of ways. There's balloons up, there's a tent up, it's a significant investment. But is it out of line with what we think the importance of the event is? Absolutely not."

Director for Center of Social Concern Bill Tiefenwerth adamantly denied campus rumors that funding was cut to any CSC programs or other equivalent student groups.

Overhauling the program is "frankly long overdue," Executive Assistant to the President Jerome Schnydmann said.

"The admissions office should be commended for what they're doing," he said. "I think it's necessary to compete with the Ivy League schools and the Dukes and the Stanfords — all of them are doing everything they can to recruit the top students. I applaud the things they're doing and it's definitely worth every penny."

Although some financial concerns linger in the minds of stu-

dents, the benefits of such a large event are evident.

"Its good initiative taken by the admissions office trying to increase Hopkins's exposure," freshman David Silberstein said.

Although the administration is excited by the event and confident in its mission, if it is deemed unsuccessful it will not be repeated. "We might resource it to three more weeks of travel for admission officers so they [are] spending a few weeks on the West Coast," Conley said. "Or we could be looking at taking our web presence to the next level."

If SOHOP's baby is deemed a success, though, there will not be a major expansion next year.

"There are real limits. What we would probably do is look at some individual expenditures like balloons," Conley said. "I think that's what's going to happen; we're not going to expand it even more. I think it would be really doing the cost benefit analysis. I'd love to say that we're sitting on a monstrous budget, but that just isn't true."

Phi Mu sister passes away after battle with cancer

PHI MU, FROM A1
Oppo's parents for an official statement, Turning said that Hopkins Greek Life is much saddened by the loss.

"We're still in the midst of gathering information, this is a tough time for the family and their first priority is obviously not keeping us up to date," Turning said.

"It's very sad. She was someone that by all accounts was going to be a leader in her chapter and on campus."

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, people make donations to The Manhasset Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer. Checks can be made out to "MWCABC" with Oppo's name in the memo section and mailed to the Coalition at P.O. Box 1007, Manhasset, NY 11030.

In honor of Oppo, Phi Mu has decided that all proceeds from the upcoming Mr. Phi Mu contest, which will take place this Thursday, will be donated to the American Cancer society. Phi Mu sisters declined to comment.

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NEWS & FEATURES

New Muslim chaplain employed on campus, shares life experiences

CHAPLAIN, FROM A1
for their enthusiasm and optimism. The group of students at this school now have a nice spirit about them."

He thinks he will work well within this community to spread knowledge about Islam. "These students want to make changes to their work, but hold onto their faith. They are interested in teaching others what Islam is, and also what Islam is not."

He has already seen students taking a lot of initiative on campus, and is ready to get involved. "I have already hit the ground running in helping with student's existing projects," he said. He talked about helping Hopkins students to coordinate bringing Dr. Tariq Ramadan as a speaker at the annual Muslim Student Association's Spring Banquet, and working with a few individual students who were compiling a photojournalism project on generations of Muslim families. "Any way I can help, I want to."

Amin addressed his decision to come to Hopkins. "I was ap-

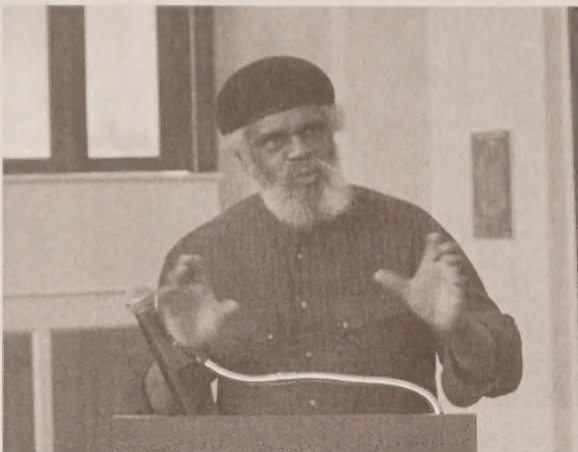
proached by Dean Boswell and some others because they were interested in bringing an Imam to Homewood."

He also spoke about the need for his chaplaincy on our campus. "For six to seven years we have been without an Imam, and this campus has two hundred or so Muslim students," he said.

With this kind of need, Amin wants to do more than just get the word out to the campus. He is here to address a number of the students' needs, whether they be personal or spiritual. "They asked me if I could come on board to help with faith related issues, to counsel students in their faith, to do the sermons on Friday nights," he said.

He hopes to make a real difference in the lives of his students,

and his work as a counselor and social worker has prepared him for that. "My giant focus is to be there for my students one-on-one. I don't have a time limit, it's



COURTESY OF HUSAIN DANISH
Amin believes that he can expand community outreach by starting personal.

not a nine-to-five situation. I have a phone number just for Home-

wood campus students," he said. He spoke a little bit about the kind of counseling he hopes to do. "These students just went through midterms, and I am trying to keep their spirits up," he said.

He hopes students will talk openly with him, and promises to talk frankly back. "I have an obligation to guide my students correctly according to the rights and rituals of our faith."

Sometimes, that might mean answering hard questions. "If a student came to me [and] said they have a girlfriend and they are having prob-

lems, I have to tell them there are no girlfriends and boyfriends in Islam," he said. He is adamant about counseling his students within the framework of his faith. "But, although I am the Muslim students' chaplain, I am really open. If a student doesn't have a faith and they want someone to talk to, I'm more than willing to sit with them," he laughed. However, he cautions again about the kind of advice he will be giving. "But they have to understand that I will be very frank with them about the right and wrong of a situation," he said.

Junior Sheerin Habibullah feels that having a chaplain will be very useful to the student body. "I actually am really relieved that we have an elder figure with more experience working with the community and the religion in general," she said. "I feel like we were successful before, but there were always a lot of students I personally know who didn't feel comfortable approaching someone with questions. I feel like having a chaplain

would give them an opportunity to talk to a leadership figure."

Amin has a lot of experience organizing in the community, and he hopes to bring some of that spirit to Hopkins as well. "Some of my biggest passions are enlightening people about the realities of domestic violence and the homeless situations," he explained. "We need to help people, so we're hosting walk-a-thons and food drives to bring non-perishable items to people who need them." He'd love to see the students here join him in his passions and get involved in the community around them as well.

Amin has big plans for the Homewood campus. He believes that he can expand the outreach of the Muslim student's community and strengthen their community, starting on a personal level. "It seemed like a perfect fit for me because I can bring something to the table for the students, and the students can bring something for me, so it will be a perfect marriage and a great thing."



JIAIYI WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kerlikowske discussed drug abuse in America and whether drugs should be legalized. He also supported alternatives to prison sentences.

'Drug Czar' speaks about US war on drugs

FAS, FROM A1
scies cost more lives than they save. He also questioned the amount of money spent on drug enforcement.

"How much money are we spending to save how many lives?" he asked. Greenfield, who says he supports the decriminalization of marijuana, said that he wished that Kerlikowske had shown more willingness to question the broader focus of federal drug policy.

"He seemed to either miss the bigger ethical questions people were throwing at him, or was just sick of answering them," Greenfield said.

"Ethically, people need to be able to make their own decisions regarding personal activities that do not directly harm others. It is not up to the government to decide what I find enjoyable, painful or destructive in my own life," he added.

Kerlikowske, however, was adamant that "decriminalization is not an answer." He noted that European countries like the Netherlands, which have tried decriminalization, are currently moving to close some of the hundreds of "drug cafes" that have opened in their country after being unhappy with the social consequences. He also disputed the findings of a study from Portugal showing that decriminalizing saved money and led to few social problems.

Kerlikowske noted that Portugal is a much smaller country,

and it's "all Catholic" and more demographically homogenous.

Sophomore Cary Glynn didn't buy the distinction. "Isn't there a contradiction between promoting the results of pilot programs in small American cities, and dismissing what happened in Portugal simply because Portugal is a small country?" he asked.

"[Portugal] doesn't have one drug problem; we have several drug problems spread out across different regions," Kerlikowske responded.

Kerlikowske also noted that despite popular perceptions, the government had been remarkably successful at reducing drug use. In the 1970s, 14 percent of Americans between the ages of 12 and 18 reported regularly using marijuana. Now that figure is down to 7.3 percent. He also noted that Columbia — the world's largest cocaine exporting country — had drastically cut its cocaine exports over the past 15 years with significant American assistance. Kerlikowske suggested that these gains would be reversed if drugs were legalized.

"When drugs are made legal and more available, they are more widely used and more widely abused," he said. He also noted that three times as many Americans use tobacco as marijuana, and eight times as many use alcohol.

This prompted sophomore John Doldo to wonder why the government wasn't seeking to

ban those substances.

Kerlikowske noted that while these substances certainly could be abused, they were ingrained in American culture. "We don't need one more [ban]."

In discussing alternatives to decriminalization, Kerlikowske again returned to programs that provide alternatives to jail and that focus on rehabilitation and economic self-sufficiency.

"We can't arrest our way out of the drug problem," he said.

For sophomore Jacob Grunberger, this sounded a lot like decriminalization. Grunberger wished that the government would take the additional step of fully decriminalizing marijuana. "Creating a black market for marijuana is part of the problem," he said, noting that marijuana criminalization bloats prison populations and fuels money to an international network of drug dealers and smugglers.

Grunberger also said that poverty and lack of education in poor communities exacerbate these problems. "There are too many communities where the only option available is to become a drug dealer," he added.

Kerlikowske smiled when asked after the event if most groups he speaks to tend to oppose his policies. "Certainly not when I go to a community that's been affected by drug abuse," he said. "When I go to places like East Baltimore, there are very few people there advocating drug decriminalization."

JohnCon a success, says Supreme Adjudicator

JOHNCON, FROM A1
kon and the New York Anime Festival.

Spoiler groups take a topic, which can range from video games to anime to popular culture, and retell its story in a humorous way. By the end of the story, the group has "spoiled" the story to anyone who did not know it by revealing key facts.

Junior Kendal Reed said that his favorite of all the panels was Disorganization 13.

"They were amazing. They put in a lot of work every year," Reed said.

Freshman Zoe Longenecker-Wright, who attended the convention on Friday and Saturday, said that while all the panels were good and the event was well managed, there were surprisingly few people there.

"Turnout was lower than I expected it to be," she said.

Longenecker-Wright added that the low turnout did not discourage her from future participation in HopSFA and JohnCon.

"Having this be a non-academic club that actually got something to run makes me feel like I'm part of something worthwhile," she said.

HopSFA received around \$4,000 of funding from the SGA for JohnCon and used approximately \$1,000 of its own money to host the convention. Despite this funding, the finances of the event were still tight.

"When we applied for funding we went to an SAC grant.

They didn't give money for food for panelists or additional capital for fundraising efforts or decorations," sophomore Rena Finkel, head of public relations for HopSFA, said. "We were refused funding for that, but we did not want to have it affect our con. We applied for reimbursement for what we already spent."

Finkel added that even though the funding did not meet the demands of the organization, the financial shortfalls were not apparent to the attendees.



MOHAN LIANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Hopkins hosted its annual JohnCon gaming event this past weekend.

She also said that the event was definitely a success, especially considering how hard it is to get Hopkins students out to events in general. She estimated that the total number of attendees at the convention was 100 people, many of whom stayed for the whole weekend.

"It has gone downhill in the past five years, but the new board has allowed this year to be a really big success," Finkel said.

This year the board of HopSFA had a slightly different agenda.

"They were focusing more on actually being a convention and getting the people who actually create this stuff to come," Reed said.

The two student panels were also very well received. Junior Alex Mui had a 90-minute panel on Japanese visual novels. Visual novels are mixed-media graphic novels that are formatted like books in which the audience can see the page and the progression of the story through the flipping of the pages.

Bismayer said that Mui's panel was impressive.

"It was well put together and well researched. I want to see more of those in the future," Bismayer said.

The other student panel was performed by junior Aaron Abugaber. In his panel, which was an introduction to plastic modeling, Abugaber built a live model in front of an audience. His panel also featured a raffle of two model kits that were donated by a local hobby shop.

The other aspects of the convention beside the panels were also fun, according to Longenecker-Wright. "I enjoyed playing board games in the game room with people I had never met before. I met some fun people who live in the Baltimore area," she said.

HopSFA and the students who attended the JohnCon deemed it a success, and only expect it to be better in the coming years.

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Time to get a watch? Fashionable wristwear

As we near the end of the semester, and I begin to run out of things to talk about, I feel that it is about time I write about timepieces. Not only will I talk about wrist watches, but pocket watches.

Pocket watches first appeared in the 16th century and were the most popular timepiece until the wristwatch emerged on top after World War I.

Pocket watches were usually kept on a chain which was fastened to a belt loop or waist coat. In working conditions, people often used a leather strap wrapped around a belt loop to avoid dealing with the chain. The leather strap also wrapped around the watch face to protect the crystal.

Most watches have a hinged case, called a hunter case, which protects the face and back panel of the watch. This is held closed by a button that is part of the winding key, which is where the chain attaches. Pocket watch parts were made by hand until Henry Pitkin, an American watch maker, began producing machine-made watches in the late 1830s.

Pitkin, unfortunately, could not compete with the production of Swiss watches and stopped producing handmade watches entirely, only continuing with machine-made watches. Currently, the handmade watches are very expensive and are coveted by collectors.

During World War I, trench

watches were manufactured; they featured both the attributes of a pocket watch, such as a hinged cover, and had lugs for attaching a leather strap to wrap around the wrist as found in wristwatches.

This was much more practical than a watch on a chain during the perilous battles in the trenches. Their popularity increased after the war and they evolved into the wristwatches we wear today.

Today's wristwatches vary in type and presentation. There are athletic watches, for those who want an everyday watch that can take a beating; as well as fancier watches, such as skeleton watches.

Albeit mechanical, watches are not as accurate as their electric, digital counter parts. They are more attractive and worth more, mostly. There are some digital watches with abilities such as internet access that are impressive and expensive, but they are a dis-cursion from my topic.

Jauffre Bismayer "Above the Cut"



I find there to be something relaxing in winding a watch, which has always made them more attractive to me than digital watches. This is a bit ironic though, as I don't normally wear a watch. I tend to use my phone as a timepiece, as it has a screen on the cover that will light up if I hit the volume control buttons.

I have a watch that I wear on very special occasions, a Tissot Classic Desire. This watch has a black leather band, white dial and gold piece. It's a simple watch, but it was my first and was a gift giv-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAUFFRE BISMAYER
Pocket watches first came into prominence during World War 1.

en to me in junior high.

My brother has a very fancy Seiko Kinetic Two-Tone watch. It has a titanium body and band, and has gold on various parts of the apparatus and down the center of the band.

The face is unique because the dial is blue quartz, which has a luminous effect. He, unlike me, wears his watch constantly, which makes him look professional. I think his watch is perfect for the business world; it has a formal appeal but can still be worn casually.

My brother and I also have gold pocket watches that have our initials engraved on the reverse side of the hunter cases. I have only worn it during Christmas because I only have one, but if I had another that wasn't as expensive, I'd wear it eagerly.

One important thing to do

when handling watches with a hunter case is to push the pin in as the case is closed; otherwise, the metal clasp will wear down as it grinds against the pin. If the hunter case is poorly treated, it eventually will not stay closed.

I mentioned Skeleton watches earlier and would like to address them again. These are truly exquisite watches; the dial on the watch is missing so that the mechanism can be seen at all times, where, normally, one would have to remove the back panel to see the gears.

At Hopkins, you see all kinds of watches, ranging from analog to digital, athletic to formal. I can bet that several students have Seikos or Tissots, maybe a professor has a skeleton watch.

I know that TAG Heuer makes Hopkins watches with a small seal on the dial. However, these are fairly expensive.

Their Aquaracer looks very similar to my brother's Seiko, but it lacks the blue dial; the color scheme on the band is accurate.

Albeit it has the JHU seal, the TAG Heuers aren't very impressive when other possibilities for JHU watches are imagined.

I think it would be really awesome to have a watch with a face in the shape of the seal — a pointed oval.

I would gladly buy this watch, so that my good friend, who is irked by the amount of Hopkins gear I own, will be smitten whenever he asks me for the time.

No more Cosmo: Saying goodbye to magazine sex advice

This probably sounds weird coming from someone writing a sex column, but I think a lot of the time we (as women) get caught up in trying to follow the advice we see in Cosmopolitan and magazines like it. It's funny to think that most guys are terrified of magazines like Cosmo - I actually know someone who tries to throw his girlfriend's out every time he finds it!

Unlike much of our generation, I never had much interest in Cosmo. Honestly, if I wanted sex advice, I'd buy an actual book on the topic. Cosmo actually is a great example of just why you shouldn't follow the advice of everything you read. The problem is that I have no idea where they get their facts from (or who the hell they're using for their surveys). Magazines like that are notoriously subjective and, more often than not, completely wrong.

Sex position guides from these magazines, especially, should be taken with a grain of salt. Most college students have at some point checked out one for more interesting sex position ideas than just missionary. I think everyone has probably seen those Position of the Day calendars or the Karma Sutra at least once. Unfortunately though, most girls rely on Cosmo for this too, like they do for advice on hair and makeup. And I can say seriously: don't. Not only are most of the positions repetitive variations on basic positions, but a lot of the others are physically strenuous or kind of impossible. Actually, for a few it's almost like the writers just took a pair of Barbie dolls and shoved them together into these strange mockeries of sex - I can't help thinking that some of them are just setting up for failure.

Most of them would need to involve someone with significantly more muscle tone than most guys have, or even are capable of getting. That's even ignoring that quite a few would require an insane height differential and weight differential. Not every girl is half a head shorter and 50 lbs

lighter than their partners. Actually, some look like you wouldn't be able to hold them for more than a few minutes anyway before completely losing balance and falling over. Not to mention the fact that a good majority of them that are meant to be especially "provocative," really won't do you much good unless your g-spot is out of whack (or you're having anal). So I'm really not sure what on Earth they think they are accomplishing by publishing all of these positions that either won't work or are basics that everyone does as being novel and kinky ways to liven up the bedroom.

Even worse though are the dating and physical attraction guides that are plastered throughout every women's magazine. Despite all the quotes from psychologists and anthropologists talking about what this or that behavior

means between men and women, they're not cut and dry guides to body language.

Most of them try and tell you when a guy is attempting to play you just to get in your pants or if they're genuinely interested. Well, that's all going to depend on the guy. Someone who is good at playing up his

body language (or any guy who has ever read Cosmo) can fake what we think of as real responses. That's completely ignoring that fact that every person responds differently to social situations and that one guy's cocky gesture may really be insecurity on another. The problem is that when you try and check someone out in a bar or a club and only focus on specific facial or body cues, you'll miss the rest of the message being sent by his overall posture and attitude. Body language guides are worse than sex guides for being notoriously wrong and misleading. Besides, men might be reading too.

These magazines should never be used as a be-all-end-all guide for set advice. All of them are just desperately trying to sell copies to women by preying on our hang-ups about sex.

Katelin Witzke "Beyond Sex-Ed"



Good weather, wine and beaches

Sometimes, studying abroad is all it's cracked up to be

Today, while all you Hopkins kids were studying in MSE or listening to lectures, I was wearing shorts and a tank top, wandering through a vineyard and tasting fine Chilean wines.

You could be jealous. Or you could channel those emotions productively and go check out study abroad options.

While unfortunately wine tastings are not ubiquitous on study abroad programs, studying abroad will always offer a variety of new experiences, and often in ways you don't expect.

For example, my program didn't start until late Feb. That gave me an insanely long winter break this year. So, instead of spending it watching Law & Order reruns (admittedly a tempting prospect) I was able to get an internship with the International Humanitarian Law department at the American Red Cross.

It was interesting and rewarding work; it kept me busy and out of the house, and it gave me something to put on my résumé, since apparently watching even a relatively intellectual TV show doesn't do that.

I learned things that were actually relevant to my intellectual interests at school, such as contemporary issues surrounding the Geneva Conventions, I experienced working in an office and I met many people willing to write recommendations and give me career advice in the future.

In fact, my networking at the Red Cross might serve me well while I am here in Chile. One of my colleagues put me in touch with someone from the Chilean Red Cross, and now I might extend my stay here beyond the semester and work for the Chilean Red Cross over the summer.

That means another few months of practicing my Spanish, living independently in a new city, gaining more experience in fields that actually interest me and once again — add-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA MUTH
Studying abroad can be a great way to have fun and learn at the same time.

ing to my résumé. So for all you super career-oriented Hopkins students who think that straying from the D.C. area is too much of a stretch, this study abroad thing can really pay off.

The program I'm currently on, run by the School for International Training (SIT), also requires an independent research project at the end of the semester. This presents an opportunity for publication as an undergraduate, and a lot of previous students have used their SIT research projects as springboards for senior theses at their home institutions or graduate schools in subsequent years.

Finally, there's the fact that sometimes, life at Hopkins can kind of run you into the ground. Don't get me wrong; I've enjoyed my time at Hopkins, made great friends and sincerely believe I will have a

lot of fun there my senior year. But it's also been a huge relief to step outside the zone of hyper-competitive pre-meds and engineers, meet new people and settle into a new lifestyle.

Studying abroad is not always all about the wine tastings and gallivanting about.

I attend real classes, conducted entirely in Spanish and have homework and tests and all that jazz. It is indeed studying abroad. But simply being able to do that in a new environment makes it somehow less exhausting than Hopkins.

Maybe it's the fact that I'm surrounded by opportunities to explore new places, or that I'm constantly meeting new people (who sometimes teach me to do totally new things, like salsa dance), but I'm never as stressed about school here as I am back at good old Johnny Hop.

So for the sake of your studies, your future career and especially, your mental health, look into some study abroad options. The possibilities might surprise you.

Don't get me wrong; I've enjoyed my time at Hopkins and made great friends . . . But it's also been a huge relief to step outside.

Forget the store: How to bake your own Oreo

Oreo cookies are by far my favorite cookie. While chocolate chip cookies and snickerdoodles are good, there is still no comparison to the delicious Oreo. Oreos are the perfect combination of chocolate and cream and are a great snack to have, with a glass of milk of course, after class. Since Oreos are so good, I decided to try my own spin on this classic cookie. I recently found a cooking blog that had a great recipe for homemade Oreos which were bigger and, in my opinion, better! These were a little more complicated than the cookies I usually make, but the extra challenge was fun. Here is the recipe straight from the blog. It is supposed to make 20 3" cookies or 10 assembled cookies, but I made mine smaller so there would be more to go around!

Ingredients
Cookie:
1 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup sugar
10 Tbsp butter, room temperature
1 large egg
Cream Filling:
1/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
1/4 cup vegetable shortening (I replaced this with more butter)
2 cups powdered sugar, sifted
2 tsp vanilla extract

Directions:
Dough:
In a medium-sized bowl, mix the flour, cocoa, baking soda and powder, salt and sugar.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON BORKO
Why go and buy Oreo's when you can make delicious ones yourself?

Beat in the butter and the egg. Continue mixing until dough comes together in a mass.

Take rounded teaspoons of batter and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet approximately 2 inches apart. With moistened hands, slightly flatten the dough.

Bake for 9 minutes at 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Be sure not to overcook them!

Set on a rack to cool.

Cream Filling:
Place butter and shortening in a mixing bowl.

At low speed, gradually beat in the sugar and vanilla. Turn the mixer on high and beat for 2-3 minutes until filling is light and fluffy.

Cookies:
1. To make a cookie, pipe teaspoon-sized blobs of cream into the center of a cookie using a pastry bag with a 1/2 inch round tip. Place another cookie, equal in size to the first, on top of the cream.

Lightly press (I found spinning to be helpful too), to work the filling evenly to the outsides of the cookie. Continue this process until all the cookies have been sandwiched with cream. Just a few notes to add:

1. I didn't use parchment paper, but greasing the cookie sheets with Pam worked well.

2. Instead of using vegetable shortening, I just used more butter because shortening is very unhealthy. I wasn't

quite sure of the conversion between shortening and butter, so I just did a 1:1 trade off.

3. I just plopped blobs of filling into the center of cookies with a spoon instead of using a pastry bag. It worked just as well.

Besides these notes, I thought this recipe was fantastic. It did take a semi-long time to make, especially if you count the time spent at the grocery store, but it was totally worth it.

Allison Borko
Guest Recipe
Columnist

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorials

Engaging in SGA

Student Government Association (SGA) elections occurred last week, and in the wake of the election's 35 percent voter turnout, this page has been considering the role of SGA at Hopkins.

Some students on campus scoff at SGA, believing that the association is powerless, but quite the opposite is true. The SGA is responsible for numerous functions on campus including, but not limited to, advocating for students in regards to academic concerns, providing outlets and resources for support projects, suggesting classes, publicizing course evaluations and, most importantly, deciding what student initiatives and groups deserve funding.

This last point should not be taken lightly as it directly affects every Hopkins student. From Spring Fair, to the Foreign Affairs Symposium, to the MSE Speaker Symposium, the one commonality is the SGA's lynchpin status. Thus, the 35 percent turnout for this year's election is highly regrettable.

What is even more alarming, though, is that this modest percent is being hailed across campus as the highest voter turnout in years. A major reason that so many people believe the SGA to be an impotent

organization is that no one gives it the thought it deserves. This apathetic outlook has serious adverse consequences for the 65 percent of the student body that chose (whether knowingly or not) to abstain from voting.

The only way the SGA will obtain serious respect from the student body is through a grassroots effort in which students actively support the endeavors of the SGA. Only then will the group be hailed as a legitimate representation of the undergraduate body and its concerns.

This is because, as it stands now, the SGA really only represents the interests of a majority within the 35 percent of undergraduates who voted. The majority of the student body on campus has become engaged in a vicious cycle in which student government has little support and feedback, because it is perceived to be ineffectual, and therefore is not able to represent students adequately.

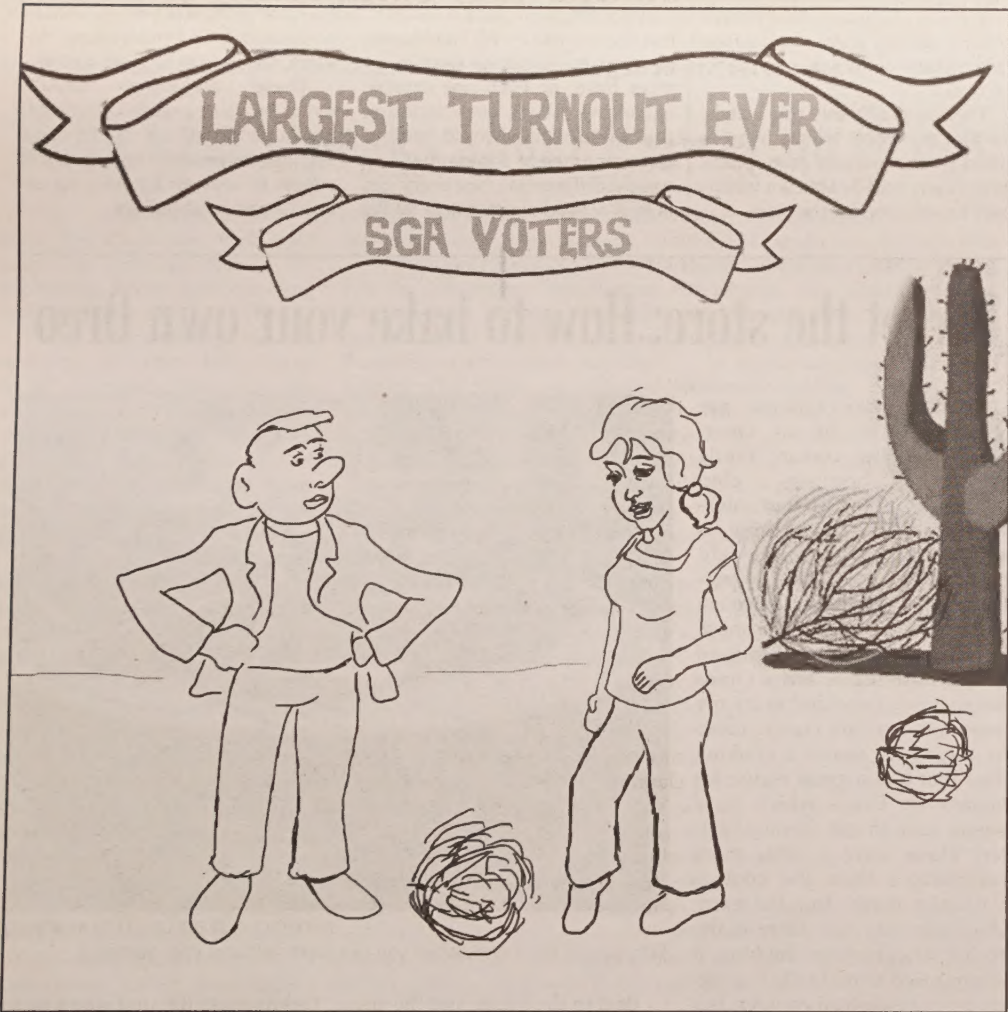
Students must reengage in campus politics to ensure that the SGA is representative of the entire student body and not just the select few who vote. While the 35 percent voter turnout represents an upward trend, Hopkins cannot be satisfied with such an election.

Anne Faber



The News-Letter extends its sympathies to the family and friends of Katie Oppo.

Anne Faber



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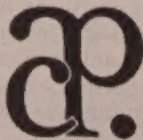
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OPINIONS

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Not my cup of Tea Party: the case for a revamped Republican Party

By DANA GORDON

David Brooks is my favorite *New York Times* columnist, which usually surprises people because I am quite liberal.

Although I do not agree with all of his beliefs I find it fascinating to listen to an intelligent, insightful individual who can shed a different light on a situation. Brooks taught me not to be stubborn; although I have a position on most things, it is necessary to hear opposing viewpoints to get a full picture of the situation.

The problem is individuals such as David Brooks who is “not a republican, [but rather] a conservative,” no longer have a party to identify with. David Brooks and others like him no longer have a place within the Republican Party.

It has become a party that has so strongly melded its economic and social views that those who are merely fiscal conservatives no longer identify with it.

Recently, a gay friend of mine joked that it was ironic that he was a conservative. In truth, there is very little irony about it; believing in laissez-faire economics and small government has very little to do with the social views that have alienated many gays, minorities and lower income individuals from the Republican Party.

Somehow the titles, “Republican” and “conservative” have become melded, and left a sizable portion of center-right voters unrepresented. The Republican Party has turned in to a different animal that alienates anyone with mildly socially liberal values or a fair amount of rationality.

A major aspect of this change has to do with the Tea Party. When it was in its infant stage, Tea Partiers (or Tea Baggers) claimed they were purely interested in the economic side: less government spending, lower taxes.

It soon became apparent that taxes were not all they cared about, but they actually had rather strong opinions on abortion, gay rights, the role of religion in politics and social programs such as Planned Parenthood.

Although not all Republicans are

members of the Tea Party, it has greatly colored the character of the party. The

Party, but of late it has become the dog. Not only are Tea Party members gaining

that nobody knew Barack Obama during his childhood.

They have mastered the scare factor, which Democrats cannot seem to do.

Referring to the Health Care Bill as “Obama Care,” and end of life discussions as “Death Panels,” they have aptly convinced the more thick-skulled portion of the country that Democrats are trying to kill their grandparents and make them wait in DMV-esque lines whenever they want to see a doctor.

Unfortunately, a good portion of our country is stupid and falls for their convoluted platforms. But a significant portion of our country is smart including a large number of individuals who once called themselves Republicans. Many of them probably feel about as comfortable with Michele Bachmann’s social views as they do with Barack Obama’s fiscal policies.

There is no easy solution to this. America’s first past the post electoral system makes it very difficult for a third party to gain a strong foothold, so even if this neglected branch of voters finds someone courageous enough to run, the likelihood of getting elected is low. Their best bet is to try to reclaim the party.

Most importantly, as I said earlier it is imperative to listen to intelligent individuals from opposing viewpoints. But negotiating with the new Republican Party is like trying to negotiate a curfew with a stubborn, manipulative teenager: you can try to give them what they want, but they will still demand more. And frankly, I’d learn more debating someone in a foreign language than Michele Bachmann.

Dana Gordon is a freshman Public Health major from New York, N.Y.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Tea Party is a beacon of ignorance and encourages its constituents to be that way.

Logic, reason and intelligence are all threats to their party, as anyone with a shred of one of those three qualities will be harder to convince that Barack Obama is secretly a Kenyan Muslim.

At one point the Tea Party was the tail-wagging dog of the Republican

popularity such as Michele Bachmann, but other competitors for the Republican presidential nomination are beginning to sound just as crazy as she does.

Donald Trump says he wants to run for President. In his interview with *Good Morning America* (which he did on his private jet), he said he did not like that anyone who claimed to be a “birther” was an idiot because it really is strange

Ian Scott

Toenail painting is not a gender identity crisis

Why Fox News should not be outraged by a new J. Crew photograph of a boy with pink toenails

This week, Fox News contributor Dr. Keith Ablow published a scathing criticism of a controversial photograph that was featured on J. Crew’s website. The photograph in question depicts J. Crew designer Jenna Lyons and her 5-year-old son smiling at each other after Lyons has painted her son’s toenails pink.

The caption reads: “Lucky for me, I ended up with a boy whose favorite color is pink. Toenail painting is way more fun in neon.”

The article by Dr. Ablow claims that J. Crew is pushing a transgender agenda and that this happy little boy will inevitably need psychotherapy.

He claims that this photograph of a mother painting her child’s toenails exemplifies a way that “our culture is being encouraged to abandon all trappings of gender identity.”

He also outlandishly claims that neither gender, due to these disintegrating gender roles, “is motivated to protect the nation by marching into other combat against other men and risking their lives.”

Dr. Ablow’s article is laughable, especially because he claims to be a psychiatrist. First, to me at least, the fact that this article was published in the first place seems to prey on people’s intolerance of how others choose to run their lives and raise their children.

Before I even address his points (which are absurd themselves) I disagree with this article on principle. Furthermore, the incendiary language that is included in the article only serves to incite controversy and attract engaged readers.

Dr. Ablow calls into question the morality of parents who “encourage the choosing of gender identity, rather than suggest our children become comfortable with the ones that they got at birth.”

According to him, this concept is not only incredibly dangerous (perhaps even apocalyptic), but also apparent in this instance.

First, it is not even clear that this mother has forced her own beliefs onto her child. Maybe her child asked to have his nails painting.

Okay, so then the argument is that the mother is encouraging her son to dress like a girl and not be comfortable as a boy, like he should. And if he does not want to dress like a boy and play with “male” toys? Then should he be forced into a gender role that society has dictated boys should fill?

I don’t understand how Ablow can claim to advocate making children more comfortable with the gender roles they have when he wants to force them to have the gender roles he approves. Ablow doesn’t just say that there is gender identity influencing in this case, but even that it is a “dramatic example.”

If toenail painting is in any way influencing what the child’s gender identity will be as an adult, it is not doing so in a dramatic way. Many boys dress up in women’s clothing and play with dolls and many girls are tomboys who prefer to play sports and get dirty. Those tendencies when growing up doesn’t mean that they will all turn out to want to change their gender.

If all of the exaggeration and finger-pointing is boiled down, Ablow could be raising an interesting point. There is merit in the argument that sexual identification is something that parents should consider during their children’s developmental years.

But to say that this episode is bleakly predictive of this child’s future and, moreover, that our society’s future will be comprised of sexually confused adults who won’t “march into combat” when needed, is just reckless hyperbole unbecoming to a

psychiatrist.

The only thing that parents should be attentive of is that they don’t force themselves on their children, whether they make boys dress up like girls or make them play sports when they don’t want to.

The boy in the picture, at least, appears happy with his pink toenails, at least for now.

Perhaps the mother in the ad was trying to make some larger social protest about, say, the oppressive nature of gender stereotypes. But after looking at the ad, it looks so lightweight that it seems to be a stretch to say that this mom is making any social commentary at all.

The main thing is that once again Fox News is making a mountain out of a molehill, sensationalizing a harmless childhood moment and trying to rile up people about some “disastrous” change in the way America is.

It is interesting to note that two thirds of the readers of the *NY Daily News* article on the ad who voted online disagreed with Fox’s negative interpretation.

Most Americans would agree that this photograph of a boy with pink toenails is neither indicative of some large transgender agenda, nor will it even affect this boy’s gender identity. And it certainly does not mean America is on a calamitous path to moral ruin.

There is much ado in the news recently about gender identity and it is a hot button topic for a lot of people. There are issues where people go too far on both sides, but this is not one of them.

Dr. Ablow needs to give it a rest and find something else to blow off steam about.

Ian Scott is a freshman International Studies and economics double major from New York, N.Y. He is the Opinions editor for The News-Letter.

Give Hopkins a chance: why you should stop complaining

By LILY NEWMAN

Walk around any crowded area of Hopkins — the library, FFC, the Rec Center — and one would think the average student has been incarcerated, not matriculated. Let’s face it — from an undergraduate point of view, Hopkins hates Hopkins. While the Blue Jay who expounds his school’s virtues is incredibly rare, “I hate Hopkins” or “I hate Baltimore” are staples of conversation.

The reasons for this sentiment are always made evident enough by their mutterers: Baltimore sucks and is inexplicably always worse than one’s hometown. The work is grueling and the professors are draconian. The highest degree of socializing occurs in the library, and there is no school spirit. While I am somewhat sympathetic to these complaints, I have four reasons why hating Hopkins is just downright unnecessary.

First, on a very basic level, college is what you make of it. You can choose to drink excessively on a daily basis, sleep with as many men or women as possible and blow off class. Hopkins allows opportunities for each of these activities. Conversely, if you want to go through your undergraduate years in the midst of sobriety, abstinence and good study habits, Hopkins accommodates this lifestyle equally well. Frankly, I can’t think of any life choice that is impossible at Hopkins. If you don’t enjoy how your life is going, change it. It’s not Homewood’s fault.

Second, Hopkins does not have the same reputation as Ohio State. No matter whom you talk to, no one will paint Hopkins as a party school. The University of Chicago, for instance, is known as the school “where fun goes to die,” and, because of this, I would not expect a particularly fratty individual to enroll there. Similarly, Hopkins has the reputation of rigorous academics, a rough social scene and an extremely high saturation of pre-meds. If you come to Hopkins expecting Miami, you haven’t done your homework.

As an institution, Johns Hopkins is fairly self-selecting; it does not boast nine percent acceptance rates typical of Harvard or Yale. If a student enrolls at Hopkins I would assume it is because they are either choosing to come here or are at least resigned to it. As such, whether or not Hopkins is a good fit is up to the discretion of admitted students.

Third, the fact that Hopkins places

a high premium on its research is a good thing. There is often disagreement over the fact that Hopkins fails to prioritize its undergraduates in its funding decisions. Yet the fact that Hopkins consistently places strong emphasis on research is exactly what the school is known for. Ever since its founding, this institution has been touted as a research university. Our reputation hinges on the *research* that occurs both at Homewood, JHMI and beyond.

Why lose the main thing that our school has to be proud of? If the University complies with the demands of many students and shifts money away from research, what will the result be? Hopkins would still not compete with state schools in terms of student life, but its credentials would suffer.

Fourth, there are myriad positive elements in and around Hopkins. The Homewood campus is as beautiful as any you’ll find. Charles Commons is about as good as dorm life is ever going to get. Opportunities for student research abound in a wide variety of disciplines. Baltimore is a fun city to spend four years in. The Inner Harbor is nice enough, but Fell’s Point and Federal Hill are quaint and generally underappreciated by undergraduates. And Greek life at Hopkins is more than adequate.

When perusing JHUConfessions, it’s typical to see a large number of posts saying things like “Hopkins ruined my life.” While I do not want anyone in this community to be unhappy, the burden of individual problems must not rest on Hopkins. Personal problems are not brought about by an institution, especially one that delivers exactly what people expect, if not more. Many students who complain that they hate their Hopkins lives would probably feel this way in any situation at any school.

Many people simply cannot avoid complaining about their situation and that’s understandable. I complain a lot. I’m not a huge fan of FFC food. But Hopkins is a top-20 university and as such, students here have to work very hard on average. When considering the situation as a whole, though, it is obvious that hating Hopkins is blaming the carpenter for a problem with the plumbing.

Lily Newman is a junior Writing Seminars and History of Science and Technology double major from New York, N.Y. She is an Editor-in-Chief of The News-Letter.

HopkinsGroups

April 15th is Student Officer
Transition Day

Are you ready?

Make sure that on April 15th you update your group officer information and attend the Office of Student Activities Officer Transition Reception from 12:00-1:00 in the Office of Student Activities, Mattin 131. All incoming and outgoing officers are encouraged to attend this event together.

Visit johnshopkins.collegiatelink.net to update your group's contact information today!

PHOTO ESSAY

*Blossoming
into
Spring*



By Carolyn Han

THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

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Great Food
Arts and Crafts
Beer Garden,
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YOUR WEEKEND APRIL 14-17

Fighting spring apathy and getting work done

Taking a break between assignments can be a good way to combat lack of motivation during the last few weeks of school

What is one of the cruelties for being on a college campus? Everyone has felt it.

Yes, it's springtime apathy.

This paradox of sorts is comprised of two components. The first is the glorious spring weather in Baltimore: the trees are blossoming, the air is warm and our allergies are kicking in (though somehow, the loveliness of the climate seems to make up for them).

The second component is work: the majority of professors across campus seem to simultaneously arrive at the conclusion that they exist in isolation and consequently slam us hard with papers, tests, presentations and the like.

The dilemma: how ever do we find the motivation to do the work?

It's not so hard in classes that you care about. Even if I do feel the tug of cabin fever, I don't have a problem doing the work I'm actually interested in.

It's the sneaky little distribution credit classes that really bite. They're often the ones with "intro to" in the title, the ones that come along with hours of busywork, work that is hard to do to begin with when you're being forced to take the class, but that becomes nearly impossible when spring hits. Why? Because we lose the ability to care at all.

This is even harder for seniors. Cower as I may at the thought of a bad grade, I simply cannot force myself to care about certain classes when financial independence is looming four weeks ahead.

What is it about sunshine that is the death of focus?

I'm sure there's a biological explanation for it, but instead, I'm going to go for my favorite scapegoat and say that it's our lack of a communal dining area.

We are without a place to socialize in the winter months;



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Embracing the desire to spend time outside on a sunny day can help fight procrastination.

thus, when the spring comes and everyone can be out on the Beach,

they jump at the chance, and all work is left behind.

There are the few noble souls who attempt to bring their work to the Beach, but in my experience that usually ends up being a colossally epic fail. Work on the Beach acts as a magnet for everyone

you have ever known at Hopkins. That random kid who you used to run into on your way to the bathroom in your dorm freshman year who you were pretty sure didn't actually go here and who you haven't seen since freshman year suddenly appears at your elbow, ready to catch up. Which is to say nothing of the stream of randos, acquaintances, friends, teammates and fellow sun worshippers that will follow.

This is one of many reasons

why Spring Fair is a good thing.

Following the generally accepted Hopkins maxim of "work hard, play hard," we are granted one glorious weekend to play hard. A capella groups have their concerts (Mental Notes, 8 p.m., this Saturday at Bloomberg), alumni come back for the beer garden, and of course, there are trucks and trucks of food.

And now for a brief overview of Spring Fair fare: one fried oreo is enough. The chicken on a stick is enough for two people. Do not buy a mug from the guy with the homemade soda — you think it will be a really good deal, but you'll end up forgetting it somewhere and have to buy another.

Hopefully this weekend will help all of us get some of the springtime craziness out of our systems so we can get back to doing the mounds and mounds of work we have been assigned.

Other tips include counterintuitive advice such as doing your easy work while it's light out, and saving your harder stuff for night when it's dark — it's easier to concentrate on terrible things when there isn't the temptation to go outside. Allowing for small breaks in between study sessions can also help with procrastination.

And sometimes, just embracing the desire to be outside and taking an afternoon to play in the sun can be the best thing.

Just don't forget to wear sunblock!



FILE PHOTO

Food and arts & crafts vendors will be setting up shop at Spring Fair this weekend.

40th annual Spring Fair to take place this weekend

By FLORENCE LAU
Your Weekend Editor

Spring Fair, a Hopkins tradition since 1971, takes place this weekend from April 15th at noon to April 17th at 6 p.m. It is one of the largest student-run university fairs in the nation.

The festivities kick off with fireworks and music on Thursday evening at 9:30 p.m. in front of Levering.

As usual, Spring Fair comes with a whirlwind of activities, tastes, sounds and vendors. Food vendors will be set up in the Freshmen Quad, arts and crafts in the Upper Quad, and a community marketplace in the Lower Quad.

A sample of the food that will be available at Spring Fair includes: Constantine's Greek Kitchen, I Love Thai, India Tandoor, Everything bout Crepes, Sherri's Fun Food and more.

The arts and crafts vendors are both local and national and will be selling things as diverse as nail files, chairs, hats, fudge and tote bags, among

other products.

The community marketplace features different student and business groups: Zipcar, The Princeton Review, the Undergraduate Chess Club and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, to name a few.

The Beer Garden in the President's Lawn is always a huge hit. Those over 21 are eligible to enter. Different student groups will have tables set up with a different type of beer at each table, and tickets can be exchanged for beer.

There are all sorts of events that will run throughout the weekend including airbrush unlimited face painting, the Sound Body Challenge, Bill the Magician and various others hosted by Hopkins student groups.

The newest Spring Fair tradition is a music festival featuring multiple stages set up in front of Levering Hall with local and national acts performing all day.

This event is open to the public and free for everyone and runs until 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and until 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Chiddy Bang to perform at Spring Fair 2011

By FLORENCE LAU
Your Weekend Editor

Chiddy Bang will be performing at Spring Fair 2011 on Friday, April 15th.

A Philly-based duo with emcee Chiddy and DJ & producer Xaphoon Jones, they are known for combining indie rock and electronica in their music. They use music from artists as diverse as MGMT, Passion Pit and Mary

Poppins, but they change the music and turn it into something completely different and all their own.

To date, they have come out with one album, *The Preview*, and one EP, *Opposite of Adults*.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the performance will start at 8:45 p.m., although management will close the door when the hall reaches capacity.

There will also be security at

the door to check for contraband items like drugs and open alcohol. Anyone consuming open alcohol will be removed by security.

This event is free for anyone with a J-card including staff and alumni.

Each J-card is also valid to admit one guest. Passes for admitting more than one guest can be found at springfairmusic@gmail.com.

Calendar of JHU Events

Thursday, April 14

Mattin Market: Game Day
11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Mattin Courtyard

Local vendors from Baltimore will be selling their products at the second annual Mattin Market Event Series. Talk with representatives from SGA and enjoy a basketball shot game, a sports arena with radar unit, Twister and more games. Be sure to enter the raffle to win awesome prizes.

Mr. Phi Mu
7 — 10 p.m.
Schafner Auditorium

will go to the Children's Miracle Network.

Spring Fair Kick-Off
9:30 — 11:30 p.m.
Levering Plaza

Get pumped for Spring Fair 2011 with fireworks, food and more. A DJ will be providing entertainment, and beers and Hawaiian Iced Tees will be available for purchase.

Friday, April 15



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Spring Banquet feat. Tariq Ramadan
6 — 11 p.m.
Hodson Hall 110

The JHU Muslim Student Association is presenting their annual Spring Banquet. The keynote speaker is Tariq Ramadan. Dinner and entertainment will follow at 7:30 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. There is an entry fee of up to \$15, and all proceeds will go to Muslimalat Al-Nisaa.

Vocal Chords Concert
8 — 10 p.m.
Bloomberg Auditorium

The Vocal Chords' annual spring concert includes a selection drawn from rock and pop to indie.

Saturday, April 16

The Future
8 — 9:30 p.m.
Shafner Auditorium

The Mental Notes come prepared with a lot of laughs, and fun is guaranteed at their spring a capella concert about the future.

Sunday, April 17

Wind Ensemble Spring Concert
8 — 9 p.m.
Shriver Hall

The Johns Hopkins Wind Ensemble is presenting its annual spring concert under the direction of Mr. David Vickerman. Works included will be by such diverse composers as Mackey, Milhaud and LoPresti. This concert is free and open to the general public.

Calendar of B'more Events

Thursday, April 14



COURTESY OF EVENTS.JHU.EDU

Regeneration
5:30 — 10 p.m.
Second Chance

This multidisciplinary art exhibit explores the theme of sustainability and features over 10 artists.

Poetry Slam
6 — 8 p.m.
Youth Dreamers' Dream House

Wide Angle Youth Media and The Youth Dreamers are presenting a night of poetry. Students from Baltimore City will be performing poetry on the theme of identity. Entrance is \$5.

Friday, April 15

Six Degrees of Separation
7 p.m.
Vagabond Players

This play about the lure of celebrity and how easy it is to succumb to temptation opens on April 15th and will run for a month at Fells Point. Tickets range from \$10 to \$15.

Music For Another World
8 p.m.
Creative Alliance

John Berndt presents otherworldly sounds using two different ensembles. Sdrassi Gamelan uses electronic instruments with a nod to Balinese music, and Second Nature, Baltimore's improvising orchestra, has 15 players playing spontaneous music.

Saturday, April 16

CityLit Festival
10 a.m.
Enoch Pratt Free Library

The eighth annual City-

Lit Festival, a day-long celebration of literature will feature authors Danielle Evans, Andrei Codrescu and Jaimy Gordon as well as presentations by other speakers.

Costumed Bike Caravan
12 — 3 p.m.
Patterson Park

Tour Baltimore by bike and in costume to spread some cheer. After the bike ride, there will be activities at the park such as frisbee playing, kite flying and more. Meet at the Pagoda at noon.

Mark Jaster
3 p.m.
Creative Alliance

Master clown Mark Jaster performs mimes, acrobatics and other hilarious hijinks at his show at the Patterson this Saturday.

Visions
9 p.m. — 3:30 a.m.
Ruintown

Manifest presents Visions, a multimedia extravaganza. There will be visual art, electronica, graffiti crews, vendors and more. The event is \$10 at the door.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Documentary focuses the lens on noted photojournalist

By **CHLOE BAÏZE**
Staff Writer

Every single day since 1978, Bill Cunningham, an 82-year-old senior citizen, rides his old Schwinn in the streets of Manhattan, taking pictures of people and the passing scenery for his column “On the Street” in *The New York Times*.

At night, he attends several high society events and shoots dressed up celebrities and fashionistas for the “Evening Hours” page.

Over the years, Cunningham has become more than just a photojournalist; he has become an icon. *Times* readers like how he seizes fashion trends of the New York scene while celebrities love how he glamorizes them.

“We all get dressed for Bill,” says *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour.

She is not alone in this sentiment.

The city Cunningham depicts through his street photography is lively, colorful, original and vibrant. He manages to catch the intensity of “everyone’s favorite city.”

His secret? More than a mere photographer, Cunningham is also an anthropologist seeking to capture the right movement, the right trend and the right clothes.

BILL CUNNINGHAM, NEW YORK

Starring: Bill Cunningham, Anna Wintour
Director: Richard Press
Run Time: 84 min.
Rating: NR
Playing at: The Charles Theater

His talent stems from more than 50 years of deep observation, and his accurate eye is always benevolent, willing to make the city inhabitants

even more harmonious than they are, perhaps, in real life. The film *Bill Cunningham, New York* draws an intimate, poignant portrait of the life and work of the fashion photographer.

Viewers get to learn how he
SEE CUNNINGHAM, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF WWW.ZEITGEISTFILMS.COM

Photographer Bill Cunningham snapped photos of New York fashionistas on his bicycle.

Ladybirds flaunt dance skills at Shriver show

By **WHITNEY JANIS**
Staff Writer

The official Hopkins dance team, the Ladybirds, performed their annual spring showcase on Friday for an enthusiastic audience.

With high energy from start to finish, the dancers put on piece after piece, displaying dazzling technique, stage presence and a variety of styles.

The program opened with “Le Jazz Hot,” choreographed by senior Jean Smith and the team.

The piece opened in silhouette lighting against an orange background, creating a pleasant, beach-sunset atmosphere.

The dancers progressed effortlessly from jazz to a short, but very well-executed tap number, and later returned to jazz, perfectly rounding out the piece and giving it a cyclical feel.

Freshman Colleen McDermott tested the strength and stamina of her dancers in her contemporary piece “Disillusionment.”

Music by Full Circle and the simple white costumes allowed the audience to fully focus on the dynamic choreography and athleticism the dance required.

“Seven Nation Army,” choreographed by freshman Ally Tanzola, was one of the highlights of the show.

The piece required sharp and accurate movement and a copious amount of sassiness, and boy did they deliver on both counts.

The change in lighting, from a shadowy twilight to a seemingly misty dawn, was quite effective and complementary to the dancers.

Sophomore Sara Hussey’s lyrical piece, “The Dog Days are Over,” while providing a refreshing contrast to the upbeat styles of jazz, tap and hip hop, was no less energetic.

The dancers highlighted their fabulous extensions and advanced technique with a series of clean fouette turns while wearing sweet, pastel-colored dresses.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Jazz dance group the Ladybirds put on a rousing performance on Saturday that featured “Cell Block Tango” and a kickline.

The undeniable crowd-pleaser of the night was “Cell Block Tango,” set to music from *Chicago* and choreographed by “the six merry murderesses of the Cook County jail,” as written in the program. Pop, Six, Squish, Uh-Uh, Cicero and Lipsitz excelled in their solos and ensemble work.

Highlights were Pop’s straddle leap and Cicero’s array of acrobatics.

However, the final chorus after all the intensity of the solos was muddled and inexact, as if the dancers had temporarily run out of steam.

Ending the piece on a strong note was the final bit of lighting: a pop of red extinguished immediately and brilliantly unexpected like a gunshot.

Following “Cell Block Tango” was a beautifully touching duet by Hopkins alumni Amber-Leigh Tyler and Smith.

The emotion in their faces was evident, as was the passion in their lyrical movement.

In “King of Anything,” Smith

employed a creative use of props as the centerfold of the piece.

Coffee tables and chairs assembled around the stage and utilized by the dancers, who were donned in varied sundresses, provided a light atmosphere complementary to the upbeat tempo of the music, yet directly contrasting with the bitter song lyrics.

Nonetheless, the charming ambience far outweighed the lyrics, resulting in a performance both delightful and inventive.

Junior Stephanie Curtin’s “Forget You” melded funk, jazz and gold spandex shorts and matching headbands perfectly.

The choreography demanded precision, sharpness and uniformity, which the dancers executed admirably.

Particularly impressive was the amount of clean, linear movement of the arms and legs, creating a visually spectacular scene.

Overall, the piece was very enjoyable and a lot of fun to watch.

“Firework,” choreographed by junior Monica Harris, closed the

program with as much energy as the very first piece.

Noteworthy sections included the Ladybirds’ signature kickline.

Legs were long, high and everywhere, yet the effect would’ve been even more dramatic had the kickline lasted for a few more counts of eight.

Guest groups for the performance featured S.L.A.M. and JHU Ballet. S.L.A.M., entertaining as always, danced through a complex, multi-music piece with great energy, clarity and an innate ability to engage the audience.

JHU Ballet performed two pieces: an excerpt from “La Bayadere” and a contemporary piece set to music by Fee.

Two dancers in pink and two in blue danced the sprightly former variation, whereas the latter featured all-black costumes and a more onerous tone.

The Ladybirds spring showcase was an undeniable success, demonstrating their knowledge and range of different styles, endurance and technical expertise.

Barnstorms perform Andrew Lloyd Webber’s popular Evita

By **MORGAN HALSTEAD**
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the JHU Arts Festival brought *Evita* to Hopkins. The JHU Barnstormers were a perfect fit when it came to the adaptation of *Evita*’s richly historical roots, given their own long-lasting presence here on campus.

Indeed, as the oldest and largest theatrical group at Hopkins, it would be difficult for the Barnstormers not to produce an impressive show.

True to form, *Evita* does not disappoint. The musical features a cast of 20 and a crew of 19, thus illustrating the wide array of the Barnstormers’ talents.

Evita is the true story of Eva Duarte de Perón, a woman with humble beginnings who eventually became the first lady of Argentina.

At the tender age of 15, Eva, or

Evita as the Argentine public affectionately called her, travelled to Buenos Aires in the hopes of becoming an actress. By the time she was 26, Eva had married Juan Perón, who just a year later was elected president of Argentina.

The public adored Eva, and her untimely death at age 33 drove the Argentine public into a long period of mourning and distress.

The Barnstormers’ production of *Evita* does an excellent job of showcasing not only the graduating seniors and advancing juniors, but also the relatively new sophomores and freshmen as well. The participating Peabody students were also a welcome and exciting addition.

In fact, some of the most prominent people in the cast and crew were either sophomores or freshmen. The producer (Spencer

Matson) and stage manager (Matt Sykes) are both sophomores, and were equally instrumental in the creation of this stunning technical production.

Much of the ensemble consisted of freshmen and sophomores, which is always surprising in the world of undergraduate theater, which typically casts older and more experienced company members.

Kate Orgera (Eva Duarte de Perón) and Ian Han (Juan Perón) were an unlikely pair of freshmen to interpret the two leading roles of the play, yet each of them gave a stunning performance.

One of perhaps the best things about Orgera being cast as Eva is that she actually bears a strong resemblance to the young Mrs. Perón. When Orgera sang and moved in front of the audience, it was as if Eva Perón herself was on stage, performing for us all.

Although Han’s main responsibility was to support his co-star, he was able to shine on his own.

As a rock opera, *Evita* is performed entirely in song, though the acting that Han paired with his singing was very impressive.

Even during his silent moments, Han was always noticeable, always in his character as the devoted husband and president — and entirely believable as such.

The most impressive person in the cast was undoubtedly junior Mike Van Maele as Che Guevara. The presence of the Marxist leader of the Cuban Revolution might seem out of place to some.

In the musical, however, Che is easily the most enjoyable character of all. Che provides a social commentary throughout the show, narrating in song the things that simply cannot be seen or understood in the short time

the musical allows.

The charisma and energy displayed by Van Maele was arguably the most awe-inspiring in any performance you might witness on a Hopkins stage.

Van Maele’s acting was absolutely one of a kind. Of all of the actors, Van Maele owned his role the most, interpreting it as his will. The Hopkins actors of *Evita* had very large shoes to fill, as both the musical and the story behind it possess very recognizable and significant histories.

Evita was first released in 1976 and has since made it to Broadway as well as our Swirnow theater.

The lyrics for the show were written by Tim Rice, whose musical theater credits include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Lion King*.

The music for the show was written by none other than the illustrious Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer of *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and many other respected works.

The *Evita* musical won multiple Tony, Drama Desk and Olivier awards. The film adaptation, starring Madonna and Antonio Banderas, won Academy Awards, Golden Globes and Satellite Awards.

For those who missed the Barnstormers’ production of *Evita* during the JHU Arts Festival, the show will also be playing on April 14th and 16th at 8 p.m. On April 17th, the show will run at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public.

All performances will take place at the Swirnow Theater. If you are interested in the expansive history of an incredible musical and social icon as well as some incredible acting, *Evita* is a musical you simply cannot miss.

Poet Lyn Hejinian presents work at JHU as part of series

By **BARBARA LAM**
Copy Editor

“I don’t propose that poetry can make better rulers in the world that we live in, but I wish that were true,” Lyn Hejinian said as she introduced her first poem, which was inspired by Scheherazade’s spellbinding stories.

Hejinian contemplated everything from *Arabian Nights* to circus clowns in a reading hosted by the English department on Tuesday. The evening was part two of the Poetry at Hopkins English series that began in the spring semester of 2010, and was created by Christopher Nealon, an associate English professor and the director of graduate studies.

Hejinian is a professor in the English department at UC Berkeley, and has published more than 20 books of poetry. Her most recent compilations include *Saga/Circus* (2008), *My Life in the Nineties* (2003) and *A Border Comedy* (2001).

The reading was held in dimly lit Mudd Hall. Hejinian’s words poured from the shadows onto the audience members. Sharp imagery — “. . . the boat sinks into obsidian like a lemon into ink . . .” — was complemented by her gently chiding wit and breathy voice.

“*Book of a Thousand Eyes* is a bit of a 20-year project,” she said as she introduced one of her older collections. “Not because I was working that slowly! But because a lot of projects developed out of it, one [of] which was *Circuses*.”

Her exploration of the industry led her into research on 19th century circuses in Europe and India, where she found many “scenarios of suffering . . . mutilation and deaths.”

“Working class heroes are at the very basis of entertainment,” she said. Their experiences had inspired her to look into the darker side of circuses, and the extreme

duality between pleasure and suffering appeared most readily to her in the form of the clown.

“What does it mean to work as a clown?” she asked describing them as overgrown, awkward children in arrested development.

Hejinian’s lines were disconcerting at first — she didn’t tread lightly with her poetry, throwing reams of adjectives at the audience. At times it was repetitive, and she often lingered on didactic bits, climaxing to phrases like “Ugh!” or “What sort of individual is that?” But after a few poems, something rhythmic and melodic emerged.

Her experimentation with sound was captivating with words carefully placed on top against and underneath each other. Eventually, though the listener slid into Hejinian’s tumult of thoughts, which were peppered with playful bouts of humor.

“‘Everybody likes you plump and warm,’ the doctor said to his patients, which was what he overheard the baker saying to his muffins,” she read seriously, drawing laughter from the audience.

Hejinian read swiftly when she found her tempo, and took listeners on a ride moving as quickly as her thoughts. The night was a glimpse into her head, *Pensées*-style — a kind of elegantly constructed stream of consciousness.

“Why is that a round brown leaf instead of a brown round leaf, the girl wondered . . . Dissatisfaction with how one shapes one’s thoughts is not the same as dissatisfaction with the shape of things, she said aloud . . .”

Hejinian wonders outloud a lot in her poetry, and it’s worth reading her work not just for her musings, but also to find what else she’s woven into the text — her sly smile at the end of her readings betrayed a poet who knows much more than she’s sharing.



COURTESY OF JHU BARNSTORMERS

The musical follows the rise and fall of Eva Peron, former first lady of Argentina.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Gilman's below ground tunnels hosted an art exhibition as well as poorly attended opening night party amid sparkling fairy lights.

MORGAN YANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gilman tunnel home to rocking Arts Festival

By BRIANA LAST
Staff Writer

Unless you happened to have walked by the Gilman tunnel last Wednesday, April 6th between 10 p.m. and midnight, you would have missed the JHU Arts Festival's Opening Party.

More fair than party, the tunnel offered considerable amounts of pink cotton candy, popcorn blanketed with dizzying amounts of butter, an assortment of sugary sodas lining the tables and an ice cream cart filled with oldies-but-goodies such as chocolate éclairs and cookie sandwiches.

The copious proportions of nostalgic snacks were all exorbitantly offered to any student, or any other passerby, at no cost.

All that seemed to be missing from the event was a Ferris Wheel. However, the party's interactive entertainment veered far from its carnival-inspired gastronomy.

The space was dim, with colorful lights dotting the ceiling at random intervals.

The echoing walls made for an excellent arena for the pulsing dancing music the festival organizers played, ranging from the expected Top 40 hits to lesser known electronic tunes that peaked the interest of many,

who meandered toward the DJ. Glow sticks, generously handed to anyone who wanted, hung from the necks of the few brave souls who decided to move with the music.

It was refreshing to see the billboards in the Gilman tunnel, usually covered with outdated flyers, primed for the party.

Signs advertising upcoming events, arts-related or not, lined the walls.

There was a collection of student artwork and photography and a couple of gaming systems set up for students to play their favorite video games projected on one part of the tunnel wall.

The truly novel part of the whole night was the Digital Media Center's Interactive Light Painting.

The piece of digital artwork, "uses micro-controllers, sensors and LED lights to alter the visual environment based on input from participants," according to the JHU Arts Festival website. Framed in the center of the tunnel, the artwork moved with the body lan-

guage of partygoers, who studied it with awe.

Like many Hopkins events, especially endemic to this past weekend's events, the JHU Arts Festival Opening Party was another example of an idea that had much potential and poor execution.

It was a shame to see such thought-out and innovative plans for a party fall on deaf ears, as there were seemed to be only a spattering of students that attended the event.

The staggeringly low attendance made for an awkward ambience as students walked through the tunnel wondering, "Is this it?" Rachel Cohen, a freshman, remarked, "The Gilman tunnel thing was a cool concept. It definitely seems like a fun place to

It definitely seems like a fun place to hold an event but I think it needs to be advertised better.

RACHEL COHEN

hold an event but I think it needs to be advertised better."

Or, as Emily Faxon, a sophomore, more succinctly (and more harshly) put it, "It would have been good," she paused, "if it were good."

BROS renovate theater for forthcoming plays

By NATALIE BERKMAN
Staff Writer

The first time you look at the Showtime Theater, the word that comes to mind is most certainly not "epic."

The outside is presentable, though the neighborhood around it is typically Baltimorean; the inside is in shambles — half due to the wear and tear of time, and half due to the major restorations that are currently in progress.

It is hard to believe that it looked worse before, but the members of the Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS) assured the audience that before they took on the monumental task of restoring this historic Baltimore movie theater, it used to be covered in dead rat carcasses.

In addition to the monumental task of restoring their theater — a job they undertook in Oct. when Billie Taylor bought the theater and contacted them with her plans for renovation — the BROS are also writing, producing, directing and performing original rock operas to be premiered there beginning in late May.

So, at least patrons of the theater can label the difficulty and time frame of their undertakings "epic" — a good start, since that one word is the cornerstone of this entire operation.

Some background information on this exciting, bohemian organization: founded in 2007, this active and energetic community theater group aims to produce original live rock operas in Baltimore. In 2009, their first show, *Gründlehämmer* was a huge success, selling out six nights and totaling 1,800 tickets over just two weekends.

According to them, "In the short time since five friends first sat around a dining room table late into the night conceiving an epic, awe-inspiring tale of a six-armed, metal-playing beast and the laser-studded guitar

trapped inside him, the Rock Opera Society has come a long way."

The BROS combine hard independent work with grandiose productions. According to Managing Director Dylan Koehler, the genius of BROS lies in their ability to "bridge the gap" between small DIY productions and larger scale performances. Because of this unique position in the realm of performers, their new venue is quite ideal.

As Koehler explained, there aren't a lot of medium-sized venues (the Showtime Theater seats 285): "It will be a community space." They hope to work with Taylor to program lectures, movies and of course, their original rock operas in the soon-to-be renovated Showtime Theater.

With around two dozen volunteers working on the renovations and over 60 people involved in the actual productions — actors, band, costumes, sets, props, etc. — it's easy to see that the BROS campaign is, as Koehler claims, "epic and ridiculous."

Their motto, "in panton re-undo" or "everything in excess" attests to the proportions of their projects. They utilize as many ideas from as many people as possible to make what happens on stage "really pop."

According to Ryan Brown, the acting director of *Amphion*, the first in their soon-to-be double feature, the Showtime Theater is "older than time itself. But it is the first iteration of the BROS 'rock palace.' Eventually, he said, they want to build a mecca of rock, an island that has festivals year round.

So, the group is ridiculous, the venue is epic, but what about the shows? The double feature coming soon to the Showtime Theater consists of *Amphion*, a historical tragedy, and *The Terrible Secret of Lunastus*, a lighthearted sci-fi adventure.

Each rock opera is unique,

original, about an hour long and these two contrasting pieces together are the latest in the BROS legacy of "epically conceived, highly-crafted rock drama."

The music, too, is epic and original. *Amphion*, for instance features "a mélange of rock styles contribute the soundtrack, including surf-rock anthems followed by tender piano ballads, with heavy doses of psychedelic and '80s rock in between." *Amphion* even utilizes a rock choir.

For *The Terrible Secret of Lunastus*, "A sweeping, atmospheric, space rock soundtrack of live, original music has been composed to thrill, amaze and tug the heartstrings of our audiences."

Article I of the BROS charter reads: "There will be beer at all BROS gatherings."

They also recently passed a resolution that they support pizza. In the lobby of the partially-finished Showtime Theater is their bar graph of the relative epic-ness of various endeavors — needless to say, they are light-years ahead of the Internet.

Their renovations almost completed, the rehearsals beginning, it appears that their new double feature will be almost as epic as a production can get.

"The result of this diverse arrangement of talent is a sum greater than the whole of its parts: an innovative musical theatre experience built upon the interactions between a wide variety of imaginative minds."

To learn more about BROS, head to their website: <http://baltimorerockopera.org>.

There you can find out about their "family and friends" campaign for cash to increase their production budget, you can learn more about their past and future productions and you can buy tickets.

You can even get active, join their ranks, gain an epic title and drink plenty of beer.

Matmos band members talk music

By JONAH FURMAN
Staff Writer

Even at high-level East Coast institutions such as this one, certain habits and mythologies of "going to school" die hard.

Like, for instance, how most Hopkins bathroom stalls still have some aesthetic equivalent to "Here I sit, broken-hearted..." and JHU Confessions still stands as verbal stomping grounds for (k)ids gone wild.

These encoded behaviors also include, if more obliquely, that infantile object impermanence of the teacher, who, once we leave the classroom, either sort of vaporizes until next section or rolls out a mat under his desk and sleeps right there in his sport coat, resting his bespectacled head on an elbow patch.

Which is to say it can still be sort of stunning to hear that professors like Drew Daniel can and do actually put down their

dog-eared and high-lit copy of "Tamburlaine" and pursue other projects.

In Daniel's case, it is the collaborative experimental/conceptual/musique concrète duo Matmos.

Last Wednesday, as part of the inaugural JHU Arts Festival, Daniel and his partner M.C. Schmidt gave something close to an artists' talk in Arellano Theater.

The presentation was brief, in order to let out for Matt Porterfield's screening of *Puffy Hill* and *Hamilton* (another prof. with a rich, successful extracurricular existence — this might actually be a common theme!).

However, in the short talk Daniel (doing most of the talking) and Schmidt showcased their music and video work (the latter helmed primarily by Schmidt) and contextualized their seemingly esoteric output.

Focusing mainly on 2006's *The Rose Has Teeth in the Mouth*

of a Beast, Daniel spoke discursively about the process and some of the theory behind the art.

Paraphrasing Sol LeWitt, Daniel noted that for Matmos, "the idea is the machine that makes the art," grouping the outfit with conceptual art more broadly.

Daniel and Schmidt's broader characterizations of their art coupled with their discussions of process and inspiration, in which they told the audience, for example, how and why they placed snails on light-activated theremins to generate parts of their tribute to queer icon Patricia Highsmith, helped familiarize their art and make it more accessible.

Though brief, the talk provided valuable insight into the orthogonal lives led by some of JHU's illustrious faculty, and how, if pressed, your stodgy prof. might have some freaky interests up his or her sleeve.



Hopkins English professor Drew Daniel and his partner MICA faculty member M.C. Schmidt talk about their band Matmos.

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Senior undergraduates give Gilman reading

By MELANIE LOVE
Staff Writer

The second year of the Writing Seminars Undergraduate Readings began on Friday, April 8, showcasing the fiction and poetry of four senior students in a performance that was even more enjoyable than the recent Graduate Readings series.

Though the reading got off to a stilted start when inclement weather forced it inside Gilman, supplying attendees with donuts and coffee was, as always, a good way to keep unrest at bay.

The first writer up was Austin Tally, who read a series of naturalistic, almost Thoreau-esque poems full of a crisp, crystalline beauty.

His work has an almost picturesque quality, like his first piece, "The Hogweed Breaks Easy," which depicts hogweed as "abandoned celery" with a lyrical cadence. Other highlights included "March," which hastened the arrival of spring in lines like "the month of cusp, the culmination of our cabin fever" and "Bad Farmers."

Tally also read a piece written in the vein of James Wright in the venerable Steve Scafdi's course entitled "On the Jawbone Fragment of an Unknown Animal," which, as with all of Tally's work, resonated with precision and clarity.

Following an impeccable start was Amanda Boyle, who read an untitled story written for a fiction class this year. The action followed a girl in her 20s, Peanut, and the flighty lack of commu-

nication of her relationship with the unnamed first person narrator.

Though it was difficult at first to discern who the narrator was (this author's series of wrong guesses included mother and boyfriend), the writing itself was strong throughout, reminiscent at times of Lorrie Moore with the strange, revealing details pieced into the narrative.

For example, the narrator, having drinks with a friend, announces that "All I want is an overripe avocado," leading to the ingenious line, "I don't think it's patience if you're waiting for the season to pass."

This exchange seems to capture the indecision and longing of the speaker. Later on, when Peanut returns from a trip to N.Y. that she is wholly secretive about, to the narrator's unease, she brings with her a container of granola, and the moment in the story where Peanut and the narrator share bowls of yogurt and granola is a tense but oddly tender struggle for connection in this piece.

Returning to the poets, Sara Luteran read a collection of powerful, finely wrought poems. Her use of language is a deft combination of voluptuousness and strength, such as in the standout piece "Rising" with the stunning stanza "Perhaps I am / a soap bubble / I am a / bursting / iridescent / fizz." Read aloud, it was incandescent and memorable.

Meanwhile, "Waif Wolf" contained fragments of a larger feminist werewolf piece, and though those two words have probably

rarely been featured together, the actual writing was hauntingly visceral, depicting the hirsute speaker tearing apart raw chickens with Luteran in full command of the scene.

In contrast to the more unified theme of Austin Tally's poems, these pieces delighted in variety, with subject matters ranging from Sigmund Freud ("The Father Complex") to the love poem ostensibly about a vegetable ("Beet Root").

The evening closed with Jeremy Bremer reading two shorter pieces of fiction. Bremer has a writing style fully his own and totally disparate from the three other readers; it's cerebral and revels in language in a less lyrical way that nevertheless doesn't sacrifice any of the vigor.

His first piece, "Existential with Anchovies," depicts Clifford the actor who's just gotten a part as a chef in a play when the realization comes to him that he's continually played the same character with an extensive knowledge of food.

Finding himself face to face with his own type-castedness, he gleefully falls into his own existentialism, saying, "He had finally realized the despair he had always dreamed of."

It's not quite funny in the best of ways, in that the wry humor seems a mask for some fascinating stuff going on in this character.

His next piece, "Anatomy of a Smoke Indescribable," could have been clipped in places because its later section did seem to lag, but the language again had a similar energy to it, swerving all over the place as it seemingly described a couple having a one night stand together as they smoked an ever-dwindling pack of cigarettes.

Bremer introduced the story as "more sentimental" than he's used to, and lines like "With each cigarette she seems more real" and "You make smoking cerebral," he walks a fine line of lyricism and cheesiness — that is, until the end gives a shocking reveal that turns the whole story on its edge.

Overall, the Undergraduate Readings (with help from Friends of the Library) held an excellent evening full of variety and obvious talent.

Here's hoping the weather is nicer for their next outing.



Senior Amanda Boyle read an untitled fiction piece at Friday's undergrad reading.

MOHAN LIANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF WWW.ZEITGESTFILMS.COM
Frequent subject and self-proclaimed "dandy" Patrick McDonald was featured in the film.

Fashion photographer shows off work in documentary

CUNNINGHAM, FROM B3
shoots, selects and publishes his weekly chronicles.

Riding more miles a day than a racing cyclist — an utterly dangerous exercise due to the bad traffic in the city — the aging man never hesitates to take risks while he takes pictures of "uptown fixtures, downtown eccentrics and everyone in between." Then he manually selects — he prefers his Canon silver camera to all the fancy digital ones — just a few snapshots to build his fashion theme of the week. There is only one rule: make people attractive and what they wear flattering.

Yet for all his fame, Cunningham does not take himself seriously.

In 2008, after being awarded the prestigious title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture, he declared "This is not work, this is just fun for me, I love what I do, this is fun."

Fun as his career may be, he remains very professional.

No matter how many fancy receptions he attends, he will never accept a single glass of water from there in order to keep

an "objective eye" on his work.

When asked about his personal life, Cunningham says, "The love of my life is clothes, I guess."

In the 84-minute length documentary by Richard Press, the fact that such a great human observer is a solitary person is striking.

Although Cunningham knows everyone in the city, and everyone knows him, the man has always lived alone in one of the Carnegie Hall apartments, and has worked so much that he never took the time to nurture a relationship with anything more than the *Times* pages.

Many celebrities are present throughout the documentary, from Michael Kors to Tom Wolfe, but Cunningham's documentary is strictly impersonal.

No one is less self-centered than Cunningham: all of his love is dedicated to the everyday portraits he shoots, to the gigantic documentary of New York City life.

The clothes-lover exclusively wears cheap blue scrubs bought in Paris because "they are resistant and their many pockets are convenient," but he remains one of the best observers of a city drawn so intimately to fashion.

Last Thursday's show at the Ottobar found two out of the three bands mingling amongst the audience at some point during their sets.

Surprisingly, the notoriously raucous headliners Black Lips were not included in the aforementioned two. This is not to say the Black Lips were lacking in entertainment value.

As always, their outlandish behavior is what elevates their live shows above and beyond those of their garage punk-rock contemporaries.

While other bands in a similar sonic vein pluck apathetically at their strings — here's looking at you, Vivian Girls — the Black Lips straddle and bite them.

The first band to take the stage, JEFF the Brotherhood, certainly wasn't apathetic about the performance, although their extremely spaced-out behavior might have led some to mistake them as such.

Hailing from Nashville, Tenn., the band is comprised of two brothers — as their name intimates — Jake Orrall on guitar and vocals and "Jamin" Orrall on the drums.

Most of their songs are lyricless, which afforded Jake several opportunities to enter the crowd and strum away from the floor, occasionally riffing as he leaned against the backs of audience members.

and performance boring, despite bassist Katy Goodman's efforts to saunter into the crowd and psych them up.

Judging from the crowd, I concluded that, popular music aside, men are often far more receptive of all-female bands than women are.

It's not self-loathing, nor is it jealousy; they just have to try harder to convince us (for some reason, I am much more open to the prospect of a female solo artist — I recently came into near fistcuffs with a Californian who had never heard of the greatest of them all, Joni Mitchell — than I am to an amalgamation).

The Vivian Girls, to me, were just an angrier, messier, mediocre version of Best Coast, which is almost humorous considering that the Vivian Girl's former drummer Ali Koehler recently left them to join BC's ranks.

Newcomer Fiona Campbell has since replaced her.

I couldn't quite understand why guitarist Cassie Ramone, who appears to possess a repertoire of about six chords, is the lead vocalist, when Katy Goodman has an infinitely better voice.

I suppose it's because harmonizing — Goodman's post — requires a more adept ear.

Their demeanor, page-boy haircuts and apparent inebriation were amusing, but after a few songs I found myself wishing for some vocals to mix things up.

I soon understood the reason for the lyrics' absence: Jake's voice is not necessarily what one would describe as "good." It's somewhat of a screeching, unintelligible Kurt Cobain impersonation.

Still, I continued nodding my head, enjoying the rest of the set for what it was: the fast and heavy marriage of a guitar and drum kit, as epitomized in their song, "The Ripper."

The Brooklyn three-piece Vivian Girls soon compensated for a relatively short change over.

They spent several minutes finetuning their amplifiers and instruments before beginning their first song.

I spent the majority of the Vivian Girls' set unimpressed, and instead of really listening, debated the plight of the all-female band.

Feelings among the audience were mixed; some were very taken with their lo-fi music and melancholic tone while others found their music monotonous

Their set picked up towards the end as the harmonies increased and the songs grew a little more inventive.

I got the feeling, though, that their songs simply don't translate well to a live setting, especially given the drawbacks of the sound system.

Songs I've previously enjoyed, such as "Wild Eyes," seemed utterly cacophonous with Ramone's drone against the sleet of instrumentals.

In order to really improve, I would suggest finding a new front woman, as Ramone's one-note, awkward, tight-lipped act isn't nearly as effective as she thinks it is.

Vivian Girls' performance was even worse for the wear in light of their successors and headliners, Black Lips.

The four-piece from Dunwoody, a small suburb of Atlanta, flooded the venue with their enthusiasm the moment they took the stage.

There are no weak links among the members, with each tossing around vocal duties like an especially energized hot potato.

Guitarist Cole Alexander, however, in his conductor-inspired apparel, is arguably the most attention grabbing.

He all but humps his guitar, climbs Joe Bradley's drum kit like it's a jungle gym and frequently spits in the air, catching his saliva as it falls, before swapping it with fellow guitarist Ian Saint Pé Brown — all in between turns at the mic.

(Alexander has also been known to expose himself and urinate on stage, though he managed to keep it in his pants for Thursday's show.)

Admittedly, I am only familiar with a handful of the Black Lips' songs, recognizing just "Katrina," "Bad Kids" and "Veni Vidi Vici," but the rest of their set was just as catchy and enjoyable.

They manage to stay true to their lo-fi power-punk sound (or, "flower-punk," as they describe it), but do not shy from experimentation, which can likely be chalked up to the versatility of each musician.

It's also nice to see that the bassist, Jared Swilley, takes center stage — a somewhat unorthodox arrangement even if it looks more symmetrical.

I was impressed with Black Lips' infectious and fun performance, enough so that I could forgive them for selecting such lackluster openers as Vivian Girls.

— Sarah Salvoaara



COURTESY OF WWW.VICTIMOF TIME.COM
Atlanta indie band The Black Lips rocked the house at Ottobar last Thursday, far outweighing their opener, Vivian Girls.

ARTIST Foo Fighters

ALBUM

Wasting Light

LABEL

RCA

RELEASED

April 12, 2011

In today's musical landscape, bedazzled, pants-less pop-stars are a dime a dozen, but rock has been on the decline since the 2000s.

Enter the Foo Fighters — who knew that the rockiest album in a long while would be released by a bunch of dads in their 40s?

(When performing on the *Daily Show*, Jon Stewart remarked that backstage looked like "romper room" because of all the foddlers in tow with the band running around).

In addition to being one of the coolest, most laidback guys, Dave Grohl is an electric front-man.

About 20 seconds into their latest album, *Wasting Light*, he launches out opener "Bridge Burning" by screaming "These are my famous last words!" over a thrashing guitar line.

It's an amazing track, simultaneously tight and raw. Grohl's voice gets under your skin, sets you on edge.

There's an obvious sense of musicianship, too, with harmonies that are indebted to one of Grohl's avowed favorite bands, Queen.

With a well-chosen opener that announces the Foos as a raucous, rioting band, *Wasting Light* keeps piling on the hits.

"Rope" is the lead single of the disc, and it thrives on its jittery flashes of guitar and Grohl's switches between yowling and rafter-reaching choruses.

Even more intense than the recording, "Rope" must be spectacular live as well.

This album was recorded in analog in Grohl's basement as a throwback to classic rock acts, and the purity of the sound quality is quite evident.

Plus, this is the first appearance of Krist Noveselic on bass since he and Grohl played together in Nirvana way back in the day.

In a musical climate that's more suited to one-hit wonders, it's amazing to think that the Foos have been together since 1994, and this disc hits a new peak that their last couple of albums missed (2005's overlong double-disc *In Your Honor* and 2007's forgotten *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace*).

One of the Foo's strengths is that they can modulate their bone-cracking rockers with more lovelorn cuts as well ("Everlong" is perhaps one of the most masculine yet tender ballads ever recorded).

Here, that torch is carried by "Dear Rosemary" and, to an extent, "These Days." There's a pop quality to "Rosemary," but it still digs its teeth into you with punky drums and soaring harmonies.

Meanwhile, "Days" has a restrained, almost country tinge to it, and the analog makes everything sound incredibly crisp.

NEW VIBRATIONS

The Penultimate cut "I Should Have Known" is a gorgeous, lamenting heartbreak and somehow sounds absolutely masculine as Grohl wails, "I can't forgive you yet."

"Arlandia," one of the songs played on their *Daily Show* appearance, is made for live venues, though it translates pretty great on disc.

Coiled tight at its intro with staircases of guitar riffs, the track positively explodes about a minute in, dense with electric metal and the strangely lovely growl of Grohl's voice.

In an era when albums are often just vehicles for top-charting singles, *Wasting Light* is a disc that begs you to listen to it all the way through, and it's no real chore when things are this upbeat and anthemic.

There's no real shift in the Foo Fighters' sound; it's not necessary when the material here is this fleshed-out and rich.

The beats are dense and masculine, but the harmonies and Grohl's lyrics inject this testosterone-bash with a hint of the heartfelt.

For those about to rock, *Wasting Light* will help you do so — it's their best offering since 1999's *There Is Nothing Left To Lose*. And check the Foos out live if you can, it's bound to be an amazing show.

— Melanie Love

ARTIST Daft Punk

ALBUM

Tron: Legacy

Reconfigured

LABEL

Walt Disney Records

RELEASED

April 5, 2011

Daft Punk is a French electronic music duo comprised of musicians Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter.

The duo has been making music together, non-stop, since 1993. Their prolific ways have not gone unnoticed; in fact, they've gathered quite a following. Critics and fans alike seem to enjoy their electronic stylings.

In 2007, the duo won a Grammy for Best Electronic/Dance Album for *Alive*. In 2009, they won another Grammy for Best Dance Recording for the ubiquitous "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger," made famous by the infamous Kanye West.

Also in 2009, Daft Punk was called upon to record the soundtrack for the futuristic Disney film, *Tron Legacy*.

Good thought, for starters. Disney poured a large sum of money into hyping *Tron Legacy*. They created a series of commercials in partnership with Coke to promote the movie.

There were endless promotions of *Tron* at Disney World and Disneyland.

There was even an *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* episode where a young boy got a *Tron*-themed room.

Coincidence? I think not. Despite the promotion, *Tron Legacy* was a bust in theaters, surprising no one except those involved in its creation.

On Rotten Tomatoes, the movie holds a 5.8/10 rating. The only good part of the movie is the handsome Garrett Hedlund.

Daft Punk's album *Tron Legacy: Reconfigured* is a remix of the songs on the movie's original soundtrack, which featured great work by the duo, but how do the remixes stack up?

Unfortunately, this album is a flop compared to many of Daft Punk's other releases, including the original version of the *Tron* soundtrack.

That said, there are some tracks that really stand out against the others.

The first track, "Derezzed (Remixed by Glitch Mob)," has a great beat and is electric good fun.

This remix of "Derezzed" is like the big brother of the original.

While the original had deep bass sounds and a distinct bassline, this version of "Derezzed" offers an even more beefed up rendition with bolder and darker sounds.

"C.L.U. (Remixed by Paul Oakenfield)" is a suspenseful and dynamic track.

"C.L.U." is a perfect fit for a futuristic action movie like *Tron*.

"Tron Legacy [End Titles] (Remixed by Sander Kleinenberg)" was also a good track as it stood out against the otherwise dullish nature of end title songs.

This particular remix features an eclectic mix of instruments including trumpets and bass, which is amazing!

The last track I wish to highlight is "Encom Part 2 (Remixed by Com Truise)."

In addition to the mixers' hilarious name, the feel of the song was very '80s with some additional rock elements and even some orchestral ones as well.

"Encom Part 2" is a slower song on the CD, but certainly is not void of tenacity.

Tracks worth skipping are both remixes of "Sons of Flynn," which are simply examples of background music.

I couldn't make up my mind about "Fall (Remixed by M83 Vs Big Black Delta)."

Although I liked some moments in the song, I was overcome with the annoying high-pitched repetition of "na-na-na-na."

I don't listen to techno frequently, but I definitely got a good dose of it from this album.

Daft Punk stayed true to the theme and tone of *Tron Legacy*, and the soundtrack is fitting for the movie.

ie: mediocre.

Recommended Tracks: "Derezzed (Remixed by Glitch Mob)" and "Encom Part 2 (Remixed by Com Truise)."

—Emily Cheung

CARTOONS, ETC.

Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Stoll Li



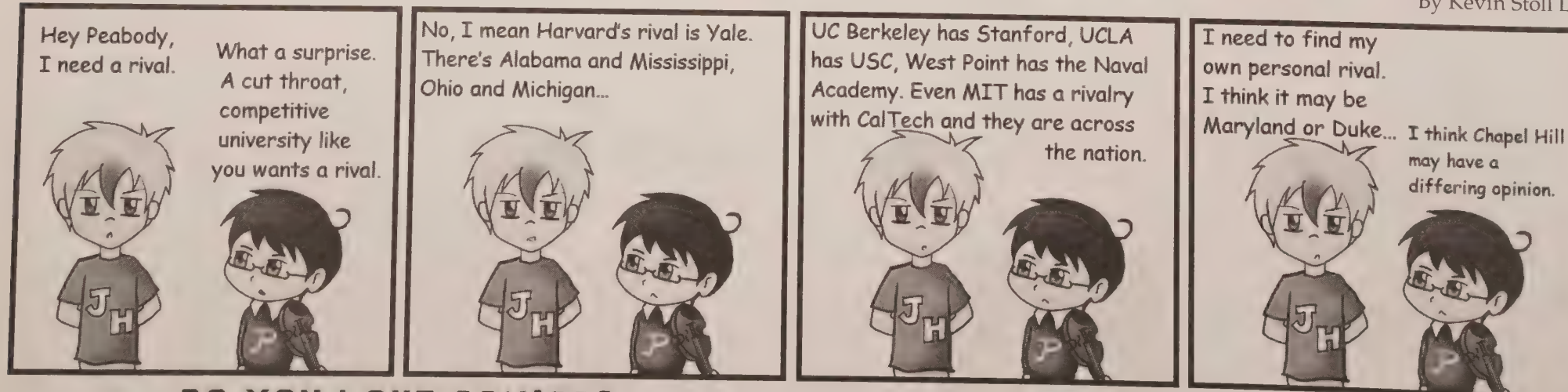
Blue Jay Brigade is also in the Magazine this week!

HOPKINS EASILY LIVING LIFE



Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Stoll Li



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Humans pass infections Hopkins pushes for HIV-positive organ donors to mountain gorillas

By ERICK SUN
For The News-Letter

Recently, scientists and conservationists have become more concerned over the possible spread of human infections to gorillas. Unfortunately, in a finding from the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, new reports have confirmed that disease can be transmitted between the two species.

The study was led by Gustavo Palacios of the Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia University.

While chimpanzees are considered our closest living relative, gorillas share 98 percent of their DNA with humans. This fact, coupled with increased contact between humans and gorillas over the past 100 years, has forced scientists to pay more attention to gorilla epidemiology.

Mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), a subspecies of Eastern Gorilla, are vulnerable to human diseases. Respiratory infections are particularly hazardous and cause one-fifth of all sudden deaths among mountain gorillas.

According to the latest census, only 786 mountain gorillas remain in the wild, living in parks in Rwanda, Uganda

and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they have become popular attractions for tourists. Wild mountain gorillas were declared an endangered species in 2000 and have suffered significant drops in population in the past 20 to 30 years, according to The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The ecotourism industry built up around them generates revenue to sustain the species and raises awareness of the animals' precarious status. Gorilla tourism has dramatically increased the number of people entering the gorillas' habitats, thus increasing chances for interspecies infection. This, coupled with the fact that infectious disease is the second most common cause of death in mountain gorillas, has made conservationists anxious over the survival of the species.

In 2008 and 2009, the Hirwa group of wild mountain gorillas living in Rwanda suffered two bouts of respiratory disease which included coughing, eye and nose discharge and lethargy. In the 2009 outbreak, 11 of the 12 members were infected. Of those infected, an adult female and a male infant died.

Analysis of the two deceased gorillas' tissues revealed the presence of the human metapneumovirus (HMPV) RNA virus, a typical cold virus nearly all humans come into contact with.

While the female gorilla appeared to have been killed by a secondary, bacterial infection enabled by the virus, the infant's death appeared to be directly related to starvation and an umbilical infection that had spread to his kidney, according to the researchers. The source of the virus remains unknown.

By MAHA HAQQANI
Staff Writer

Researchers at Johns Hopkins are arguing for the reversal of the ban on transplanting HIV-infected organs and making them available to HIV-positive patients.

The new Hopkins research suggests that if Congress lifts its ban on allowing people with HIV to be organ donors after their deaths, roughly 500 HIV patients with kidney or liver failure every year could get a transplant within months rather than the years they currently have to wait.

"If this legal ban were lifted, we could potentially provide organ transplants to every single HIV-infected transplant candidate on the waiting list," said Dorry L. Segev, an associate professor of surgery at the Hopkins School of Medicine and the senior author of the study. According to Segev, the otherwise healthy organs of HIV-infected people, which are discarded after they die, could instead be available for HIV-positive candidates.

The ban on organ donation by HIV-positive patients was enacted in the '80s when the deadly AIDS epidemic was newly sweeping the United States. Congress put the ban into the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984. Though in most cases HIV is not an immediate death sentence but rather a chronic infection that can be managed with medication, the Act has never been updated.

According to Segev, not only would HIV-positive transplant candidates get organs, but transplanting those patients and moving them off the waiting list would also lessen the time non-HIV-infected patients have to wait for transplants.

The number of HIV-positive patients receiving kidney or liver transplants with non-HIV-infected organs is rising. In 2009, more than 100 HIV-positive patients received new kidneys and 29 received new livers. Accelerated rates of liver and kidney disease in HIV-infected patients may be due in part to the toxic effects of antiretroviral drugs, the medications that keep HIV in check.

Segev and colleagues set out in their study, published online



By making HIV-infected organs available to HIV-positive patients, researchers argue that hundreds of patients could be saved each year. COURTESY OF WWW.ARMY.MIL

on March 28 in the *American Journal of Transplantation*, to estimate the number of people who die each year who would make good organ donors except for the fact that they are HIV positive.

They collected data from two main sources: the Nationwide Inpatient Study, which has information on in-hospital deaths of HIV-infected patients, and the HIV Research Network, a nationally representative registry of

people with HIV.

Both data sources gave similar information: an average of 534 each year between 2005 and 2008 in the Nationwide Inpatient Study and an average of 494 each year between 2000 and 2008 in the HIV Research Network.

Because of the ban on organ donation by HIV-positive patients, no transplants of HIV-infected organs into HIV-infected patients have been done in the

United States. However, Segev says doctors in South Africa have started doing this type of transplant with very good results.

In transitioning to a system where organs from HIV-infected donors can be transplanted into HIV-infected patients, doctors can call on the lessons and experiences of transplanting hepatitis C patients with organs from people with the same disease, Segev

SEE TRANSPLANT, PAGE B8



COURTESY OF WWW.ISU.EDU
At the last census, 786 mountain gorillas remain in the wild.

Neurons cooperate to get their voices heard

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh have investigated how neurons are able to relay their messages without them getting lost among the other signals sent out by the billions of other neurons in the brain.

Neurons interpret messages from the sensory organs: eyes, ears, nose, tongue and skin, and respond to them by releasing an electrical signal, called the action potential or "spike." These spikes

are generated by a change in the concentration of charged ions across a neuron's membrane, and can therefore be interpreted by neighboring cells so that the signal is carried on to a final destination. When a neuron spikes it is said to have "fired."

In the brain, there are also groups of neurons called "inhibitory circuits" which can regulate spikes of other neurons. These circuits are directly involved in facilitating the systems that respond to signals from the sensory organs, including the olfactory system, which is responsible for interpreting smells. The team's investigation focused on the olfactory system.

This system is a common model for scientists who study how the brain processes and responds to multiple stimuli, because of the many different and competing smells that can be picked up by the nose.

Specifically, the team observed the response of mitral cells in the olfactory bulb of the brain. These cells are unique in the olfactory pathway in that they both receive input and relay output messages.

The main methods of observation used by the researchers were slice electrophysiology and computer simulations. Slice electrophysiology measures the electrical properties of neurons in the brain and how they change over time. These measurements are taken in brain "slices," neurons that all lie in the same horizontal plane.

Their findings, reported in the online journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* earlier this month, show a time-dependant relationship between the effects of the inhibitory circuit and the method by which the message generated by the spike is relayed.

On a short timescale, sev-

eral milliseconds, the olfactory bulb's inhibitory circuit causes the mitral cells to spike in synchrony. The spikes are then said to be "correlated." The result is a much stronger signal than would be achieved if only one cell fired, comparable to a crowd of sport spectators all shouting in support of their team at the same time.

The results were different for messages relayed on a longer timescale of about one second. Signals that are transmitted by neurons on short timescales are simple ones, quite different from those that take a longer time to be transmitted. These sometimes require a larger number of neurons to fire, or require the message to be sent to several parts of the body, or even require multiple messages to be sent.

For these more complex messages, the inhibitory circuit generates a form of competition between the mitral cells, so that neurons with larger spikes effectively silence those with smaller spikes. This method decreases cooperation between the cells, and is comparable to a group of people with every person speaking. People who speak quietly or less forcefully would not be able to get their message across because of the comparable loudness and forcefulness of other people's voices.

Nathan Urban, a professor of life sciences at Carnegie Mellon and one of the authors of the results, said in an interview with www.futuri.org that the desire to have your message heard is not unique to neurons, but can be found across many fields of biology.

"The solution we found in neuroscience," he said, "can be applied to other systems to try to understand how they manage competing demands."



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Neurons form thousands of connections, which must be constantly regulated.

New drug strengthens failing heart cells with fewer side effects

By SAM OHMER
Staff Writer

Researchers at Cytokinetics, Inc., Hopkins, CV Dynamics, Inc., the New Jersey Medical School and the University of Pennsylvania think they may have discovered the future of cardiac care for heart failure.

A team of scientists, led by Fady Malik of Cytokinetics, Inc. and including David Kass of Hopkins, has demonstrated the efficacy of a drug called omecamtiv mecarbil.

The drug, which is considered a small and potent activator of cardiac function, improves upon the current standard of drug treatments for cardiac care because it more directly stimulates cardiac myosin and is thought to have fewer side effects than current therapeutic pharmaceuticals.

As Fady Malik wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*, "In systolic heart failure, the central problem is that the contractility of the heart is reduced. Prior attempts to improve cardiac contractility involved mechanisms that have several effects on the cardiovascular system — some of them not so good for people with heart failure. We believe that directly activating myosin is the most selective way to increase cardiac contractility and hopefully avoids many of these undesired effects of other mechanisms."

Omecamtiv mecarbil acts, as was previously mentioned, by direct interaction with cardiac myosin. Myosin is a protein necessary for the contraction of muscles — in this case, the heart muscles. By binding to myosin, omecamtiv mecarbil seems to be able to facilitate binding between myosin and another protein called actin.

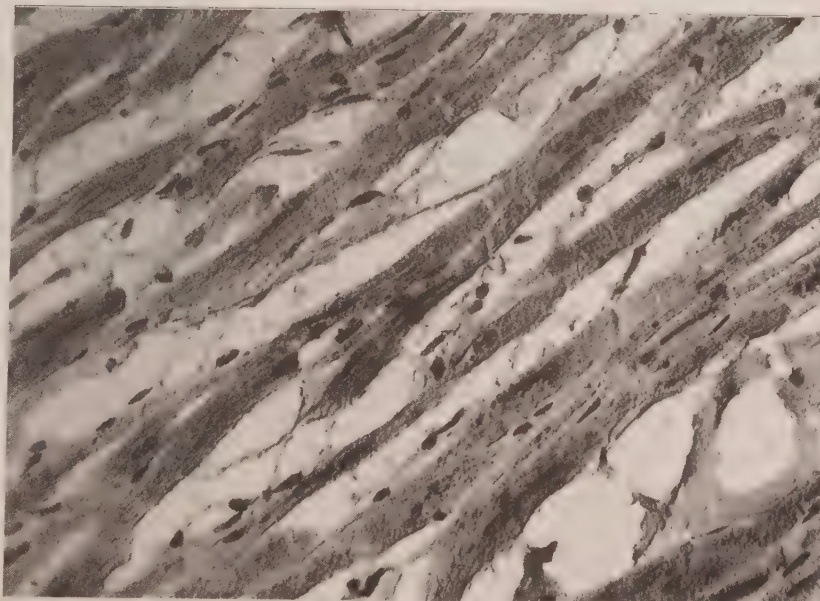
This is a particularly important capability, as it is the binding of myosin to actin that results in the

"power stroke" that occurs in muscle fibers, causing them to contract.

In the heart, contraction is the driving force for pumping blood, so omecamtiv mecarbil's ability to increase heart muscle contraction capabilities is crucial for keeping the heart working for patients suffering from systolic heart failure. More than just simply keeping the heart working though, omecamtiv mecarbil seems to be able to actually increase the efficacy of individual beats of the heart so that more blood can be pumped without significantly increasing the amount of work the heart must do.

"The drug increases the time the heart spends contracting during each heart beat and thus it leads to the heart ejecting more blood," Malik wrote. "In essence, the heart does exactly what it would do in the absence of the drug but towards the end of contraction, instead of stopping, it continues contracting for a bit longer and continues to eject blood. In doing so, it doesn't increase the oxygen consumed by the heart and so efficiency is increased (more blood pumped without a change in energy consumption [equals an] increase in efficiency)."

The heart is necessarily weakened by heart failure, and yet in response the body will try to increase the heart's activity by in-



A new drug was found to stimulate cardiac myosin and increase the efficacy of heart contractions. COURTESY OF WWW.EXALPHA.COM

creasing the tone of heart muscles almost constantly; this, accompanied by secretion of neurohormones, causes even more stress to the heart muscles. Thus, the potential ramifications of the present study are very promising, but Malik is cautious to assume too much.

"We hope that this property [of omecamtiv mecarbil] will be less stressful to the heart but that conclusion can't be made until we show the drug has a clinical benefit in patients," he wrote.

For now, Malik and colleagues must move forward from this experiment, which has already shown that omecamtiv mecarbil works in humans.

The next step will be to evaluate the benefits of treatment against any and all costs to assess feasibility of large-scale treatment and availability.

"We certainly hope that this novel drug mechanism will lead to improvements in the lifespan of

patients with systolic heart failure and reduce their need for hospitalization," Malik wrote.

He also notes that if omecamtiv mecarbil does live up to Malik's and colleagues' hopes it could potentially become a standard treatment option — and a potentially very effective one, at that. Malik is optimistic for that possibility.

"Heart failure is an extremely common condition with a mortality that exceeds that of many cancers. Any improvements in the condition of these patients could reduce health care expenditures on this condition," he wrote.

Not only that, future testing with omecamtiv mecarbil may even prove that this drug is useful for activating a variety of muscles, which may make it the perfect drug treatment for diseases of skeletal muscle weakness and fatigue — or so Malik and his team hope.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

People with HIV may be allowed to give organs

TRANSPLANT. FROM B7
suggests. This practice, which has not always been the standard, has considerably shortened the waiting list for recipients without significantly compromising patient or graft survival. The decision of whether or not to use these organs is not a legal one, but one made by the clinician.

Segev acknowledges, however, that using HIV-infected organs is not without concerns. Several medical and safety issues need to be addressed. Doctors need to make sure that the harvested organs are healthy enough for transplant and that there is minimal risk of infecting the recipient with a more aggressive strain of HIV. There is also the fear that an HIV-infected organ could accidentally be transplanted into an HIV-negative recipient, but hepatitis C-infected organs are clearly marked as such and similar protocols can be applied to HIV-infected organs.

"The same processes that are in place to protect people from getting an organ with hepatitis C accidentally could be put in place for HIV-infected organs," Segev says. "When you consider the alternative — a high risk of dying on the waiting list — then these small

challenges are overshadowed by the large potential benefit."

Segev says eliminating the ban on HIV-infected organ donation would have immediate results. He predicts that initially there would be more HIV-infected organs than people on the waiting list. Then, as doctors realized that their HIV-infected patients would no longer have to wait between five and seven years for a transplant, Segev thinks more and more HIV-infected patients would sign up for the shorter list for an HIV-infected organ.

"The whole equation for seeking a transplant for someone with HIV and kidney or liver failure would change if this source of organs became available," he

says. "We want the decisions taken out of the hands of Congress and put into the hands of clinicians."

If Congress were indeed to reverse this ban, and if the benefits of this practice outweighed the potential medical risks involved, then transplanting organs from HIV-positive donors into HIV-positive patients would go a long way towards shortening the ever-growing waiting lists for organ donation.

We want the decisions taken out of the hands of Congress and put into the hands of clinicians.

— DORRY SEGEV, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, HOPKINS HOSPITAL

Evidence increases for new elementary particle

Tevatron measurements puzzle physicists, may be caused by unknown particle

By IAN YU
Staff Writer

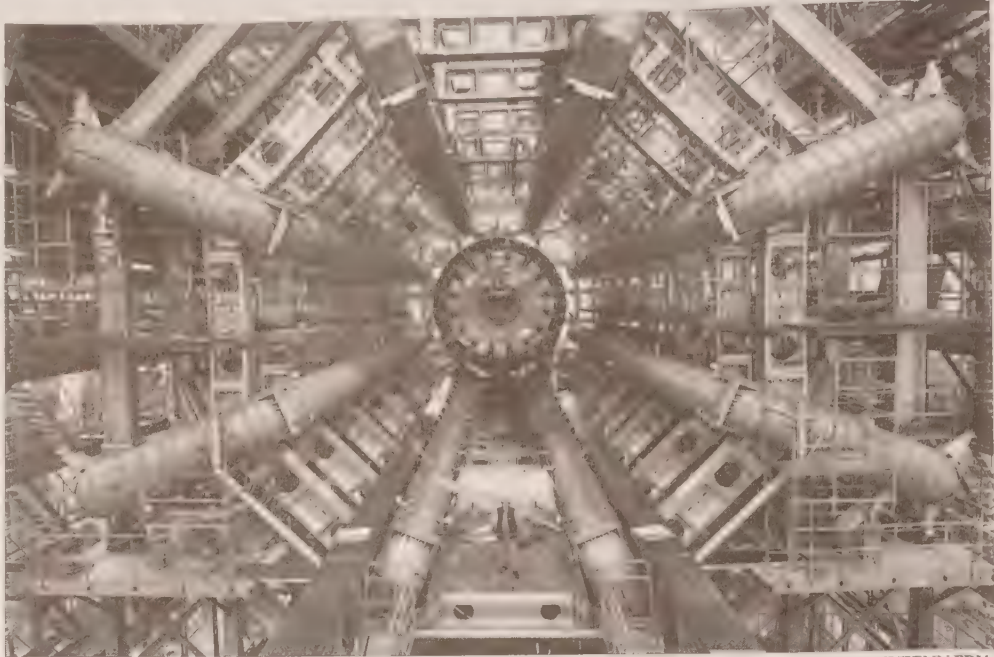
There may very well be a new elementary particle to add to our current understanding of particle physics.

Anomalies in measurements taken at the Tevatron in Ill. were previously thought to have been little more than events that occurred by chance in experiments looking for top quarks. However, more evidence is mounting that this may be more than a freak event.

"In the last two weeks, two very puzzling measurements at the Tevatron particle collider have been revealed. Both measurements show a 'strange behavior' that we cannot explain with our current Standard Model," Markus Schulze, theoretical physicist at the Department of Physics and Astronomy here at Hopkins, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Although the signals seem convincing, Schulze says that thus far the signal is too weak and that more will need to be done to lead to an official discovery. "There is still some (small) chance that it is just a statistical fluctuation or some error in the measurement," he wrote. "So, to be really sure we have to wait a little for a refinement of the analysis or the LHC to take over."

These measurements at the Tevatron were taken from an experiment that collided proton beams in the search for top quarks, the heaviest of the six quarks predicted by the Standard Model.



COURTESY OF WWW.UPENN.EDU

ATLAS, one of the six particle detectors that make up the LHC, is based on a design similar to that of the Tevatron.

Measurements collected from this experiment found that there were particles that were flying off in one direction much more frequently than the other, a behavior contrary to the particle predicted by the Standard Model.

"If a new particle is responsible for this strange behavior then this new particle must have special interactions with the top quark and interact very differently with the other elementary particles," Schulze wrote. "We have no clue yet,

what kind of new particle this is — if it exists."

One other particle that has been long sought after, the Higgs Boson, has already been ruled out as the identity of this mystery particle. As no other particle in the Standard Model remains to explain this new arrival, a new model for elementary particles may very well be needed.

"This would be very exciting because one cannot just add a single new particle to the Standard Model without violating its mathematical consistency," Schulze wrote. "What would be needed is a whole new framework, like for example a new force or new symmetry principles or a rethinking of space-time. This is what we are actually looking for. This would probably give us some hints about unsolved problems like dark matter, dark energy or the matter-antimatter asymmetry in the universe."

With the power to address some of these questions, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) may give some further insight into the existence of this mystery particle. Running under the border between Switzerland and France, the LHC at CERN is the world's largest particle collider, and provides mas-

sive amounts of data annually for physicists worldwide to analyze."

As Schulze noted, the LHC has the power to address some of the peculiarities of the unusual event at the Tevatron. "The anomalies in the two measurements at the Tevatron show up in a rather indirect and delicate way," he wrote. "The LHC with its much higher energy and intensity can directly produce these particles and make them detect much easier." With some luck, results from the LHC will yield the results within a year or two.

Schulze himself is not involved in any of the data from the Tevatron, a task that experimental physicists undertake. While at Hopkins, Schulze's work, providing predictions to compare against experimental data, has involved providing calculations for particles in a vacuum that have interactions with top quarks.

He notes that the potential discovery of this new elementary particle may help address other unsolved questions. "Finding a new particle can lead to the discovery of a whole new theory which also contains many other particles. Finally, we hope to explain some of the unsolved big questions in physics."

World Economic Forum ranks U.S. fifth in comparison

By LILY NEWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

The race to implement new technologies is a marathon, not a sprint, and the United States may be lagging behind other world leaders.

An annual report released on Tuesday by the World Economic Forum ranked the United States fifth in an evaluation that looked at 138 countries, which together make up 98.8 percent of the world's total gross domestic product. The rankings were devised according to 71 criteria.

The top four countries were Sweden, Singapore, Finland and Switzerland. The United States'

recognize that technology itself is not as important as the socioeconomic achievements it can engender — via e-health programs, e-government services and smart grids for utilities, for example."

The study emphasized countries that have undergone major improvements. For example, Indonesia moved from 67th place in 2009 to 53rd in 2010. This mobility up and down the rankings seems to indicate great potential for improvement from any country.

Other notable rankings included Canada in eighth and China in 36th. India fell to 48th from 43rd in 2009. Burundi and Chad were ranked lowest among the 138 countries.

accounts can use their phones to make person-to-person payments, transfer money and make pre-paid purchases... These services allow for lower transaction costs and easier, cheaper and safer money transfers to remote locations."

The U.S.'s stagnation during the period from 2009 to 2010 can be attributed to low scores in areas such as rate of mobile phone subscription and math and science education, but this

year's report focused mainly on developing nations and the relevance of technology to overall global progress.

"Information and communication technologies (ICT) [have] proven to be a key precondition for enhanced competitiveness and economic and societal modernization, as well as an important instrument for bridging economic and social divides and reducing poverty."



COURTESY OF WWW.TEXTUALLY.ORG

The World Economic Forum ranked countries based on technological and social criteria.

fifth place finish indicates no apparent improvement or growth from 2009, when the U.S. occupied the same rank.

The study, known as the Global Information Technology Report (GITS) is now in its 10th year. Based in Davos, Switzerland, The World Economic Forum, and its Booz & Company study affiliate, uses factors such as patent applications, private internet, cell phone access and various social criteria to produce their study methods and standards. In its forward, the report cites changing priorities as the indicators for future technological trends and fundamental refocusing.

According to the study, "Governments, which once focused on the concrete issues of building infrastructure and providing access to citizens, are beginning to

Poverty and development were two important focuses of the 2010 report. Torbjörn Fredriksson, one of the study coordinators, wrote in one section that "the rapid uptake of mobile telephones, even in remote locations of low-income countries, has radically increased the potential for information and communication technologies (ICT) to play a constructive role in the fight against poverty."

The report highlighted the potential benefits technology can provide in the fields of public health, industry and even human rights. The report weighed the importance of venture capital and micro-loans, along with the importance of even basic devices for modern money management.

"In more and more developing countries, people without bank

By ANN WANG
Science & Technology Editor

This Tuesday, I rolled out of bed at 8:50 a.m. for a 9 a.m. class, forgot to look out the window, and found myself on the sidewalk in front of my apartment in the pouring rain, knowing that I was going to look like I had swum to Schaffer Hall. I thought about sprinting across the quad, but had nowhere near enough sleep or breakfast to seriously consider the option. Would running have kept me drier in the rain? A surprising amount of scientific debate exists on this topic.

In pursuit of a definitive answer to the question, people have gone out in the rain in water-absorbent clothes and weighed the water they soaked up, or covered themselves in construction paper and counted the number of raindrops that landed on the pages.

In an episode that aired in 2005, the MythBusters tackled the issue by setting up a rain corridor with a controllable level of "rain," put on pre-weighed clothes and wetsuits, running back and forth in the corridor, and then weighing

their clothes again.

They concluded that if you're only traveling a hundred yards, you do stay drier by walking. But by that logic, should you plod through the rain, or, going to the extreme, stand still as soon as you feel drops hit?

We can reasonably assume that how wet you get is proportional to the heaviness of the rainfall and the speed at which you're traveling. (What matters here is your speed relative to the rain's speed — if you're standing still and a strong wind is blowing rain towards you, you'll get wetter than if the rain is falling straight down.)

In fact, according a column for *BBC News* written by Nick Allen, the rate at which you get wet is equal to the integral of the density of the rain multiplied by your speed relative to the rain, taken over your body's surface area.

However, it's pretty difficult to figure out the surface area of a human body. In order to simplify the equation enough to find a solution, we need to make a few less reasonable, but more useful, assumptions.

Let's assume that raindrops fall straight downwards and that you're walking or running perpendicular to the direction they're falling. Let's also assume that the human body is



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Gene Kelly demonstrates how to collect a lot of rainwater.



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Your best bet for staying dry in a rainstorm is probably still remembering to bring an umbrella.

shaped like a rectangular box, sort of like SpongeBob if he didn't have any limbs. This makes it very easy to calculate the surface area.

The amount of water your head, or the top side of the rectangle, collects is equal to the speed the rain is falling down multiplied by the top side's area. The amount of water your chest, or the front side of the rectangle, collects is equal to the speed you're travelling through the rain multiplied by the front side's area.

The total amount of water you (or limbless SpongeBob) collect during a journey is then equal to the sum of the water your head and chest collect multiplied by the rain's density and the time your spend in the rain.

Out of all these variables, the one you probably have the most control over is the speed you're travelling through the rain. The faster you run, the wetter you get because you're going through a greater distance and collecting more water. By decreasing your speed, you decrease the amount of water your chest collects and

your total wetness.

However, the math only applies if you spend the same amount of time running as you would walking. In other words, if you find yourself in a rainstorm with no shelter in sight, you're better off standing still than moving at all.

But if you are heading towards someplace warm and dry, your instincts to book it are right. If your choice is between running and walking the same distance, you're considerably better off running as fast as you can. In the above equation, the time you spend in the rain will be replaced by the distance you're traveling divided by your speed. This fraction gets smaller the when your speed increases.

To summarize, if you're stuck in the middle of nowhere with no shelter or umbrella, you're better off standing still and waiting for the storm to pass. If you're heading towards shelter, you'll be drier the faster you run.

Of course, if neither walking nor running in the rain seem like appealing options, you could always try singing.



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New patients would not be admitted to the Clinical Center should the federal government shutdown, as it almost did last Friday.

NIH has close brush with shutdown

Government shutdown would have affected research institutions

By IAN YU
Staff Writer

If there is any one particular source of unease currently shared by many of the research labs here at Hopkins, it is the event of a shutdown of the federal government. Among the agencies that would be affected is the National Institutes of Health, a major source of funding for many of Hopkins's research labs, graduate students and post-doctorate fellows.

Immediate effects here at Hopkins might not be as critical as they are for federal agencies. Although the shutdown will affect the distribution of funds, the way disbursement of NIH funds at Hopkins is structured means that much of funding for Hopkins researchers will last into the summer. However, depending on the length of a government shutdown, there will be a delay in the review of grant applications.

The NIH itself, including its research labs and clinical trials, will be affected immediately. While currently active clinical trials will still be running and

clinical centers will remain open, new trials will be put on hold and new patients can be neither recruited for trials nor admitted to the clinical center.

Although the labs at NIH are able to designate one or two individuals each to maintain rodent colonies and other essential materials, the rest of the researchers who do not work with patients will be furloughed and barred from work-related activities.

In addition to physically showing up at the NIH campuses, these work-related activities include the use of work e-mail and other tasks that can be performed when researchers are not at their labs. One can only imagine how this trickles down to other researchers, especially those here at Hopkins who are in active contact or collaborations with NIH labs.

These effects of a shutdown arise from existing yet highly antiquated laws surrounding how government agencies can operate in the event of a shutdown.

Based on these existing measures, government agencies must provide compensation for any work or service provided to them. Funds for these agencies

are appropriated by Congress through legislation that can fund a full fiscal year or for shorter periods of time should delays arise in the legislative process.

Whether through significant disagreements or delays in appropriation committees, failure to pass legislation to fund the government before the prior piece of legislation expires will prohibit government agencies from spending funds. In essence, these agencies have no money. A shutdown ceases once new legislation is approved and implemented.

With some exceptions including transportation security and military personnel, federal employees cannot work during a government shutdown as their agencies are unable to pay them.

For those at the NIH who are exempt, they are permitted to work but will not receive compensation. As for the employees that cannot work during the shutdown, the penalties for performing any work-related activities are ambiguous, but researchers potentially face a fine should they open their NIH e-mails.

Fifty years since man went to space

By ERICK SUN
For *The News-Letter*

On April 12, 1961, the unexplored realm of outer space was finally surmounted after nearly 30 years of work by the Soviet space exploration program. With Yuri Gagarin aboard the Vostok 3KA-3, more commonly called the Vostok 1, the USSR became the first nation to send a man into space as Gagarin orbited Earth for 108 minutes.

Born on March 9, 1934 in the village of Klushino, USSR, Gagarin grew up the son of Alexei Ivanovich Gagarin and Anna Timofeyevna Gagarina. He had a life-long interest in flight and attended several technical schools in order to earn his pilot wings and complete military training. Gagarin began his career working for the Soviet space program in 1960.

That year, Gagarin was one of 20 pilots selected for the Soviet space program to be trained for a potential launch into space. Through rigorous training and testing, the Klushino native earned the honor of manning the Vostok 1 into outer space. Beyond his training, Gagarin was also lucky that he was only 5'2" which was a benefit because of the small cockpit.

While everyone knows of Yuri Gagarin and his role as the first man in space, the man behind the scenes leading the space program was far less known. Often called the "Chief Designer," Sergei Korolev was an aircraft designer turned aeronautics genius who was the key to developing

Soviet space exploration.

He began his career in the space program by looking at the use of rockets for space exploration. From 1953 to 1957 he put intense effort into developing rockets for satellites in space and convincing the Soviet government that satellite technology was a worthwhile investment.

Finally, in 1957 the first satellite was launched into space. It was quickly followed by continued advancements in space exploration by the Soviets, culminating in the flight of the now famous Gagarin.

Following his renowned flight, Yuri became an instant worldwide celebrity, touring across Europe promoting the USSR's space program. During these tours, his naturally jovial personality was revealed as his warmth touched the millions of people he came into contact with. This personality, a warmth very different from the sternness of the Lenin era, was particularly memorable to *The New York Times* writer Jamie Doran, who was born and raised in the Soviet Union.

He described Gagarin as a man "loved by one and all — including, eventually, even his greatest rivals." And perhaps it is this effervescence that has allowed the Soviet astronaut to be-



COURTESY OF WWW.SPACEFACTS.DE

Yuri Gagarin was the first man to fly a mission into space.

come such a hero in the science community.

His status has prompted various books, programs and articles to be written about his work, the latest by the media company The Attic Room. In collaboration with the International Space Station, The Attic Room created a 108-minute film, the same amount of time Gagarin orbited the Earth, that traces what Gagarin would have seen from the Vostok 1 as he made that first historic orbit.

Perhaps befitting of a man known for his space exploration, Gagarin died during a training flight with Vladimir Seryogin when his MiG-15UTI crashed near Kirzhach, USSR on March 27, 1968. While his memory lives on with a monument on Cosmonauts Alley in Russia, his legacy continues in the minds of millions who admired him as a great Russian hero.

Briefs in Science

Blood hormones alter circadian rhythms in the elderly

Hormones circulating in the blood may explain why older people have different sleep cycles than younger people.

The study, led by researcher Steven A. Brown, of the Institute for Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, examined the circadian rhythms of skin cells from older and younger individuals.

The study was published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences*. The body's circadian clock is determined by the expression of the circadian genes in the body's cells. It is believed that the time for sleeping and waking are determined by the peaks in expression of these genes.

Over a 24-hour period, circadian gene expression tends to peak earlier in older people, which explains why they tend to go to bed earlier and wake up earlier.

Brown and his team wanted to see if the circadian cycle of skin cells from young donors could be manipulated to match that of skin cells from older donors.

When the skin cells from younger people were grown in the blood serum of older people, the circadian clocks of the young skin cells behaved liked those of older people.

The results suggest that some soluble factor in the blood serum, like a hormone, controlled the circadian cycle in the cells.

Scientists have long known that skin cells have clocks that

are in sync with those of their owners.

The findings of the study are not conclusive. Other factors could account for the earlier sleep schedules of elderly people. Elderly people may be exposed to less sunlight or spend less time outdoors, altering their circadian cycle.

It is also possible that the bloodborne factor controlling circadian rhythms is connected with other factors to influence the sleep and wake cycles.

Multi-tasking gets more difficult with increasing age

Researchers at the Neuroscience Imaging Center at the University of California, San Francisco have figured out that the ability to multitask wanes with age.

Previous research has suggested that, on average, we can hold four items in working memory in a single moment. That means we are able to hold and manipulate that information in the mind. This ability is the foundation of all mental operations. Multitasking at any age has an adverse effect on working memory. However, it is more pronounced in older individuals.

Neuroscientists have now determined that a mental "glitch" may be to blame for "senior moments."

Scientists compared the working memory of 40 individuals, half whose ages were 25 and the other half whose ages were 69. Subjects were shown a picture of a landscape and were asked to keep the image in mind as their brains were scanned using fMRI. Dur-

ing the scanning period, which lasted 14.4 seconds, participants were interrupted. An image of a face popped up on the screen in front of them and they were asked to determine age and gender.

Afterwards, the subjects were shown a picture of a landscape and asked to determine whether it matched the initial picture. As expected, older individuals had a harder time recounting the earlier image than did the younger subjects.

Scans of the fusiform face area, the part of the brain responsible for analyzing faces, suggests that both young and old people paid equal attention to the interruption. The difference came after the interruption. Older people failed to switch off the part of the brain paying attention to the interruption. In addition, they also failed to re-engage the memory network dedicated to remembering the original task.

The findings were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Paleontologists discover Triassic era ancestor of *T. rex*

Paleontologists have announced the discovery of a 205 million year old theropod, the dinosaur lineage that included the other large carnivores like *T. rex*.

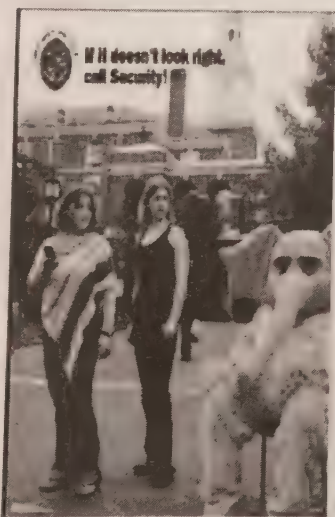
The dinosaur was named *Daemonosaurus chauliodus*, which means "the evil spirit reptile with outstanding teeth." The remains, which include a nearly complete skull, some vertebrae and ribs, were discovered at Ghost Ranch, in N.M.

While some have proclaimed the dinosaur a missing link in theropod evolution, most paleontologists agree it more likely represents an evolutionary dead end. However, the findings suggest that evolution may have experimented with the skull shape of theropods more than previously thought.

Daemonosaurus lived during the end of the Triassic Period. Large, serrated front teeth were found in the upper jaw of the animal. Its short, deep snout suggests the animal had a powerful bite. Scientists estimate the dinosaur was five feet long and stood as tall as a large dog.

The scientists detailed their findings in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

—Briefs by Husain Danish



Campus Safety and Security POSTER CONTEST

Campus Safety and Security is sponsoring a poster contest. The poster contest criteria are as follows:

- Theme has to be a crime prevention or safety related concept
- Provide layout, design, and message of poster
- Brief explanation for the message to be conveyed through the poster

For current campus safety and security poster examples, visit our website at <http://www.jhu.edu/security/CrimePreventionPosters.html>

Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, and mass appeal to the student community.

1st place winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore. Based on the quality of entries, additional \$50 gift card(s) to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore may be awarded.

Entries are to be submitted via email to barley-michele@jhu.edu or dropped off at Shriver Hall, Suite 30. Contest deadline is Friday, April 29, 2010.



COURTESY OF WWW.NSFO.ORG

Paleontologists have made many major fossils finds at the Ghost Ranch, N.M. site.

SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse loses to sixth-ranked Florida Gators

By JARED FRYDMAN
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the Hopkins women's lacrosse team traveled to Gainesville, Fla. in attempt to overcome a demoralizing loss to Vanderbilt the previous week.

The sixth ranked University of Florida Gators hosted the unranked Blue Jays, and proved themselves as one of the nation's elite.

The Gators' explosive scoring attack was too much for a Blue Jay comeback, as the Jays lost 14-10. Hopkins fell to 7-5 overall and 0-2 in the American Lacrosse Conference (ALC).

The Gators opened the game with a flurry of goals, relentlessly finding the back of the net.

Just over 10 minutes into the game, Florida scored their fifth goal with 19:24 left in the opening half. During the 10-minute span, Florida's Kitty Cullen had already notched a hat trick, scoring three of Florida's five goals, the first of which came just 13 seconds into the game.

The Blue Jays got on board at the 17:03 mark from a score by senior Brianna Cronin. The Gators refused to let up though, scoring with three unanswered goals to further extend the lead to 8-1 with 7:24 to play in the first stanza.

Finally, the Jays saw some offense. Junior Colleen McCaffrey ignited a three-goal tear, scoring back-to-back goals in just 90 seconds. Junior Rachel Ballatori scored her only goal of the contest, shrinking the Gator lead to 8-4, and capping the scoring run.

The Gators answered just be-

fore the end of the half, scoring with just 16 seconds left, and entered the locker room at halftime with a five-goal 9-4 advantage.

Coming out of the half, Coach Tucker and the Jays were not prepared for the Gators to continue pouring on the offense.

Expecting a more defensive approach from the Gators, the Jays could not stop a sudden 4-1 run to ignite the second half.

Trailing 13-5, the Jays showed some heart and emptied the tank to attempt what seemed to be an insurmountable comeback.

With 15 minutes left to play, the Jays started to claw back into the game. Freshman Sarah Taylor scored a goal at 15:13, cutting the deficit to seven. Classmate Sammy Cermack converted on the Jays' only free position goal of the day just 40 seconds later, slashing the lead to 13-7 with 14:33 left in the game.

Hopkins saw some second-half life with more than enough time left in the game, and took advantage of the momentum swing by adding two more quick goals.

Junior Candace Rossi took an assist from McCaffrey and buried her first goal of the day over the Gator goalkeeper, extending her consecutive point streak to 23 straight games.

At 9:55, Rossi earned an assist by finding sophomore Katie Duffey for a fourth unanswered goal. Hopkins finally found their stride to cut the Gator lead to 13-9 with just 10 minutes left in the game.

Unfortunately, the Jays could not maintain the high intensity scoring. Florida's goalie Mikey Meagher saved all the Blue Jay

attempts over the proceeding five minutes. Florida's Cullen then added the dagger to seal the game and ended the Gator scoring drought with her fifth goal of the game at 3:52.

McCaffrey would add one more goal for the Jays with less

Larash had a great effort in the net, finishing the game with 10 saves including eight in the first half.

The Lady Jays bounced back against UMBC on Wednesday, winning 12-7. It was Coach Tucker's 200th win with Hopkins. The



FILE PHOTO

Hopkins women's lacrosse is at home the next two weekends for important games.

than a minute on the clock, making the final score 14-10 in favor of the Gators. Hopkins put forth a great second half effort, but it was too little too late as Florida powered through the unranked Lady Jays.

McCaffrey led the Jays with her three goals and one assist.

Her four-point game now ranks her 10th in school history with 88 career goals. Rossi and freshman Taylor D'Amore also had multi-point games for Hopkins. Sophomore Cosette

ladies improved to 8-5 going into the weekend.

Hopkins looks forward to fully bouncing back in the forthcoming weekends.

The Jays play host to Northwestern and Penn State at Homewood field on the two upcoming Saturdays.

As the end of the season quickly approaches, Hopkins must find a way to string together some wins to even be considered in contention for the conference championship.

NBA playoffs preview: a myriad of basketball stars

By ALEX SARGEAUNT
Staff Writer

It's NBA playoff time and there are plenty of reasons to be excited. This season is shaping out to be one of the most titillating in recent memory. The stars of the court are all aligned in the right places at the right time and are all at the top of their game.

The NBA needs the top sports cities to be good at the same time for an interesting playoff race. Chicago and Los Angeles are quite possibly the favorites in their respective conferences due to depth and youth.

Miami is an exciting city with an even more exciting team. The Knicks have awoken from a long hibernation and are finishing the season strong with the intention of stealing a round or two. Historically good sports cities, Boston and Philadelphia, are both in as well.

Dynamic duos are exhilarating to watch. In basketball, more than in any other team sport, the notion that 1+1 can equal 3 is most prevalent.

With only five players on the court, if two of them are substantially better than everyone else this poses problems for an opponent for several reasons.

First of all, obviously when they are both on the court at the same time they can play off each other and toy with lesser foes. The real advantage comes at the point in the game when a team plays its reserves. This is usually in the middle portions of the two halves and the speed of

Magic and the Dallas Mavericks. Dwight Howard and Dirk Nowitzki had spectacular seasons while no one was really looking. Howard continues to rank a close second to LeBron in the "most freakish athlete to ever put on an NBA uniform" contest. He's the most imposing defender in the world and will inevitably swat at least one attempted shot into the stands per game. Dirk is the rare big man that handles the basketball, shoots threes and passes with ease.

If good coaching, defense and team chemistry are your thing, look no further than the Bulls and the Spurs. The Bulls made it through last summer's crazy off season smelling like roses.

They lost the LeBron sweepstakes but picked up Carlos Boozer, a power forward who isn't spectacular, but still consistently produces. Point guard Derek Rose is the frontrunner for MVP.

And then there's Joakim Noah, who does Joakim Noah things, while looking like Joakim Noah (and being a defensive freak), which apparently helps the team win since they have the top record in the Eastern Conference. Coach Tom Thibodeau, the mastermind of the Celtics' defense that won them a title, turned an offensive-minded team into the top defensive squad in the league.

The Spurs, though old, injury-prone and boring, have a lineup and coach who haven't done much else besides win in the past decade. They finished with the

top regular season record in the league and will continue to monotonously win unless someone figures out how to beat them.

Lastly, if you're into basketball history, the Lakers and Celtics define it. The Lakers are the team to beat, simply because they're loaded with talent. Kobe is still the best until someone dethrones him.

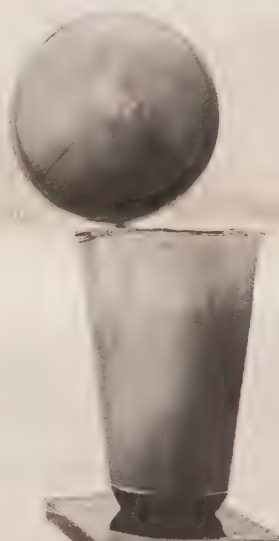
Pau Gasol proved last year that he could carry the team if need be

and Andrew Bynum is probably the best number two big man in the league. Lamar Odom, recently married to Khloe Kardashian, can score in multiple ways as well.

The Celtics have an inordinate amount of talent, too and might be on their last legs. Point guard Rajon Rondo is another one of those lab test type players that defies physics.

He does just about everything except shoot which makes him a liability when it comes time for crunch time free throws. Along with future hall of fame veterans Paul Pierce and Ray Allen, the Celtic backcourt is as dangerous as it gets. Of course they also suit up Kevin Garnett, one of the best power forwards in the history of the game.

The NBA is back in a big way. Not in recent memory has there been a playoff race so wide open. While the NFL is in danger of losing an entire season and the MLB settles into its marathon season, the NBA should provide an ample amount of entertainment through May and into June.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Men's Tennis undefeated in conference play at 6-0

By CLAYTON RISCHE
Sports Editor

The Hopkins men's tennis team faced off against Haverford and won after the Fords took the initial lead in the contest. Hopkins now stands at 11-3 on the season and is 6-0 in the Centennial Conference.

Haverford was up 2-1 after the doubles matches, with the Jays' only win coming from junior Jacob Barnaby and senior Casey Blythe. The next two matches that followed were tough losses. Junior Warren Elgort and senior Andrew Wang lost at second doubles 8-6. They were followed by sophomore Jeff Kamei and senior Ryan Rauck at third with another 8-6 score.

This was an uncommon set of losses for the doubles sets, as the Jays usually come away at least 2-1 from doubles.

Singles play was set in a much different tone by Hopkins as the team took all six matches in a clean sweep to win the day. The charge was led by Elgort, who won first in a 6-3, 6-4 defeat against Haverford's Kevin Caulfield.

At second was sophomore Andy Hersh, who won his matches in a one-sided 6-0, 6-0 win over Hailiu Yang. Blythe came in for the third match and put away the Ford's own Andy Dougherty in another 6-0, 6-0 sweep.

Sophomore Morgan Dauer and freshman Jeremy Schwartz took home wins at fourth and fifth, both taking the wins with ease.

Barnaby closed out the day with a close match against Haverford's Will Garrett. Barnaby won after a 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 contest.

Hopkins displayed a great propensity for bouncing back after falling behind initially, proving why they stand at the top of the conference with an undefeated record.

The men are currently ranked 12th in the nation and 4th regionally. The coming weeks will depict just how far this team can go and how well the individuals can compete at the national level.

The Jays return to action on Saturday, April 16th in a home match against the Muhlenberg Mules at 10 a.m. as they attempt to remain unbeaten.

Hopkins wrestlers earn post-season honors

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

In what was an already stellar season, the 2010-2011 Hopkins wrestling team has continued to pile on the accolades. Though the most recent honors came after the season, they are perhaps the most prestigious.

This week, co-captains senior Eric Levenseller from Tabernacle, N.J. and senior Rocky Barilla from New York, N.Y., have both been named to the 2010-2011 National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Scholar All-America Team. The award honors those who exemplify qualities of being a star student athlete.

Both Levenseller and Barilla have excelled in the classroom and competitions.

With the addition of the two co-captains to this year's NWCA Scholar All-America Team, Hopkins has now placed 37 wrestlers on the prestigious list since 1984. Levenseller and Barilla's accomplishments did not go unnoticed by the Centennial Conference either as both were awarded spots on the Centennial Conference Wrestling Academic Honor Roll.

Joining the duo on the Centennial Honor Roll is junior Rick Danilkowicz. Danilkowicz, a Green Oaks, Ill. native, wrestled in the 285-pound weight class.

He also carries an impressive 3.57 cumulative grade point average and majors in political science. Danilkowicz highlighted his season with a sixth place finish at the Red Dragon Invitational in November in Oneonta, N.Y.

With his second year on the team, Barilla had an outstanding season. In the 149-pound weight division, Barilla posted a 24-12 record.

Outside of the mats, Barilla is majoring in cellular/molecular biology and carries a 3.48 cumulative grade point average. With 24 victories, Barilla was second on the team in wins while going 4-1 in the Centennial Conference.

Barilla also went up in weight five times this season to 157 pounds. In the 157-pound division he had an overall record of

3-2, 2-2 against NCAA opponents and 1-0 in Centennial Conference Dual meets.

Over the past four years, Levenseller has done more than lead the wrestling team by example.

Majoring in mechanical engineering, Levenseller boasts a 3.40 cumulative grade point average. Wrestling in the 165-pound weight class, he led

"It was the first time we had a full line-up strong enough to win big matches. That became our team's main focus this year, to come together and win a conference championship with all 10 starters."

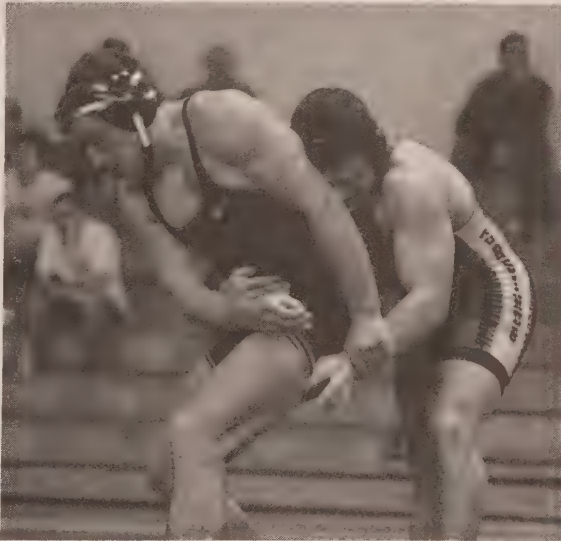
With sophomores Reid Mosquera and Paul Marcello's success in the NCAA championships followed by Levenseller, Barillo and Danilkowicz's honors, Hopkins wrestling is putting itself on the map. This season showed that Hopkins wrestling will compete with some of the country's best in the upcoming years.

Apart from Levenseller and Barillo, a good majority of the team will be returning next season with improved talent and more experience. Levenseller knew this year was special, but knows even better results may lie ahead in 2012.

"It was a long, but successful season, battling injuries and upsets, and also surprising

people along the way including ourselves," he said. "We ended up second in the conference, six spots up from our eighth place finish just two years ago. I think this season for our team was a big turning point. From now on, and with a majority of the team returning next year, Hopkins wrestling expects to win championships."

So while spring sports are well under way for Hopkins athletics during the rest of the year, look for Hopkins wrestling to make a statement next season.



FILE PHOTO

Senior captain Eric Levenseller has achieved both on and off the mats.

the team in both major decisions (eight) and wins (26). Finishing the year with a 26-8 record, Levenseller was dominant in Centennial Conference dual meets, posting a perfect 7-0 record.

Levenseller made a strong push in the playoffs, but was stopped short in a valiant effort against top-ranked Vince Renaut of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Renaut went on to win the 2010 National Championship in their weight division.

Levenseller realizes how significant it is to stay focused in matches, practices and academics. Apart from winning a remarkable 28 individual matches, Levenseller focused in large part on the team as well.

"It feels great to win the award . . . It is hard to keep a balance between wrestling and school, especially at Hopkins, but it definitely has paid off over the past four years," he said.

"This year in particular my attitude regarding wrestling changed a lot. I had always wanted to accomplish as much as I could personally: tournament titles, All-American status, etcetera, but I think a lot of the kids on the team realized we had something more than individual talent this year," Levenseller said.

BLUE JAY ATHLETICS SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Sunday, April 10

Hopkins 0, Swarthmore 2
Hopkins 4, Swarthmore 9

Monday, April 11

Hopkins 11, McDaniel 10

M. LACROSSE

Friday, April 8:

Hopkins 11, Albany 6

W. TENNIS

Saturday, April 9

Hopkins 8,
Washington 1

W. LACROSSE

Sunday, April 10:

Hopkins 10, Florida 14

Wednesday, April 13:

Hopkins 12, UMBC 7

M. TENNIS

Saturday, April 9

Hopkins 7, Haverford 2

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
JOE BORRELLI - BASEBALL

By SAM GLASSMAN
Staff Writer

Joe Borrelli, a grad student and co-captain of the Hopkins baseball team, epitomizes what it means to love the game. After an elbow injury his junior year

caused him to miss a year of play but not of eligibility, Borrelli began searching for a solution. He found one, in the form of an MBA program at the Carey School of Business.

Borrelli looked into masters programs as a result of his injury; he wanted to get the most out of his eligibility as possible. In the end, Hopkins was again the perfect fit.

"It was a great opportunity to get an MBA and also keep playing at Hopkins," he said.

The program he is enrolled in at the Carey School of Business allows him to fulfill his four years of eligibility despite his missed season. He commutes to school on an almost daily basis, giving him little time to focus on anything other than school and baseball.

"I don't have a lot of free time between traveling downtown to school and playing baseball. It's one or the other almost all the time," he said.

Borrelli seems more than happy to make the sacrifice. Baseball has been his passion

since childhood.

"I've been playing organized baseball since I was six, really. I started playing catcher at seven," Borrelli said. After 16 years of baseball, the need for an "extra-curricular" starts to seem less significant.



FILE PHOTO

Grad student Joe Borrelli knocked in seven of 11 runs for the Jays.

Despite this, though, Borrelli nearly stopped playing baseball after his senior year of high school.

"I also thought about playing football in college," he said. Borrelli, who played four years of football for Ramapo High School in Wyckoff, N.J., even went so far as to visit Georgetown for football. But in the end, Hopkins baseball won out.

The Jays were thankful he was on the diamond, not the gridiron, on Monday. After two tough losses to conference foe Swarthmore on Sunday where Borrelli went 4-7 with two walks, splitting time between catcher and designated hitter, "Joe Bo" lead Hopkins to a 10-9

win over McDaniel.

Borrelli drove in a career high seven RBI's, including a game-winning two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to improve Hopkins's record to 14-10 and 7-3 in the Centennial Conference.

So far, it has been a frustrating season for Hopkins baseball by their standards.

"We graduated a lot of really good players from last year, but we have just as many good players on our team this year," the co-captain said.

The problem, he says, is that something just isn't "clicking."

"We'll have one game where we pitch great, but just don't score any runs, and the next game we'll score, but the pitching will be off," he said.

Borrelli remains hopeful though. "We're starting to turn things around. Hopefully we'll get hot right before playoff time and go back to Wis. [for the College World Series]," he said.

Borrelli's hope is that the comeback win over McDaniel will help spark a turnaround, and will give the team what they need to start winning consistently.

"A lot of younger guys are starting to really step up," he said. "Hopefully they'll keep doing better as they get more comfortable in the lineup."

For Borrelli, this season is huge. As well as it being his final season of collegiate baseball, this is also Bor-

relli's "first year as a full-time catcher," he said.

In previous years, when he hasn't had such a secure spot in the lineup because of older, proven catchers like draft pick Rob Sanzillo (A&S '07), Tony Margue (A&S '08) and All-American John Swarr (A&S '10), Borrelli said it was much tougher to find his stroke.

"When I wasn't hitting every game, it's tougher to get the timing down. It's tougher to get in a groove," he said.

This year, though, particularly of late, Borrelli has been finding his stride. As things hopefully pick up after the McDaniel game, Borrelli seems optimistic; "[Over the] last few games [I've been] really hittin' my stride."

Last year, Borrelli started 19 games getting 73 at bats and hitting to the tune of a .356 average with two home runs.

This year, with new, more wood-like metal bats that have decreased offensive college baseball statistics nationwide, Borrelli has started 18 games and leads the team with a .375 batting average.

He's also tied for second on the team with three home runs and four doubles.

To Borrelli, though, his numbers mean little compared to the team's success. All he cares about is helping his team win the conference and go to the World Series. And if Borrelli has any say, the team is headed in that direction.

"Starting with our next game against Gettysburg, we're going to be a force to be reckoned with," he said. "If I have a message to any other teams, it's this: watch out, 'cause we're getting hot."

VITAL
STATISTICS

Year: Grad Student
School: Carey School of
Business

Joe Borrelli drove in seven runs for the Hopkins baseball team on Monday against McDaniel, setting a career high in RBIs and home runs with two. His second home run came in the bottom of the eighth to put the Blue Jays ahead for good, 11-10.

Men's Lacrosse squeaks by
Albany, awaits Terrapins

By MIKE PORAMBO
Staff Writer

It took less than a minute for sophomore midfielder John Greeley to score the first goal of Hopkins's matchup with Albany last Friday night at Homewood Field. Albany never led in the game, and Johns Hopkins rolled to an 11-6 victory, improving to 8-2 on the year and maintaining its #3 ranking in the polls. With the loss, the Great Danes fall to 4-6 on the season.

For the third straight game, the Jays built up a 4-0 first quarter lead. Greeley's eighth goal of the season was the sixth time this year that the Jays scored on their first shot of the game. Sloppy play by the Danes, turning the ball over to the Jays and failing to create scoring opportunities allowed Hopkins to score quickly and easily.

Seniors Chris Boland and Mark Goodrich teamed up to score the next two goals, as Goodrich found Boland by the crease, and he worked his usual magic around the net to beat rotund Albany goalie Edmund Cathers. Returning the favor,

by a chorus of "Pierce Says No!" from the crowd.

30 minutes into the books, the Jays held a 7-2 lead.

Albany was not quite ready to roll over and die, however. Having beaten three ranked teams in Delaware, UMass, and Ohio State, the Danes came out swinging in the third.

After senior midfielder Tim Donovan scored his first goal of the season, Albany scored four of the next five goals to bring the Danes within three.

Back-to-back goals by Resetarits and Scott Raffensperger made it an 8-4 game. Boland's second of the day

and 19th of the season on an extra-man opportunity with 3:15 to play in the third made it 9-4, but Resetarits completed his hat trick with 1:09 to make it a four goal game.

It became a three goal game when Miles Thompson scored a man-up goal 13 seconds into the fourth. Albany's run ended here, and the Jays dominated time of possession in the final period to ensure victory. Freshman Phil Castronova's goal with 5:15 to play made it 10-6, and Ranagan added his second of the day to



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Hopkins heads into their ranked match-up with Maryland sporting an 8-2 record.

Shorewomen no match for
Lady Jays in 8-1 victory

Warren, Hogan among four to win doubles and singles

W. TENNIS, FROM B12

approach. "[Coach Willenborg] always keeps us really level-headed by reminding us that you never know which way a tennis match could go," she said.

This sense of respect for each team they play has allowed the Jays to remain fo-

ingly of the teamwork amongst her fellow Jays.

With such great play, this women's tennis team has high hopes for not only the conference, but also nationals in Claremont, Calif.

"We definitely have the game to make it to the nationals," Krishnan said. Her confidence is well-founded after last year's team made it to the Sweet 16, their third trip in as many years.

With another excellent performance in Chestertown, the Jays are hitting their midseason stride

as the playoffs approach in late May. Be sure to stay tuned as the Jays continue their excellent season in their quest for not only a conference championship, but also NCAA Tournament success.

The women's next match will take place on Thursday at conference rival McDaniel after getting rained out against the Green Terror and Salisbury on Wednesday.

The Jays will return home this Saturday, April 16th at 10 a.m. against the Muhlenberg Mules and Mary Washington Eagles for conference and non-conference action before two games on Sunday in Del.

Hopkins Statistitcal Leaders

Men's Lacrosse

Goals...Chris Boland, 19
Assists...Zach Palmer, 15
Groundballs...Matt Dolente, 63

Women's Lacrosse

Goals...Colleen McCaffrey, 31
Assists...Taylor D'Amore, 14
Groundballs...Alyssa Kildare, 32

Baseball

Batting Average...Joe Borrelli, .375
Home Runs...Jesse Sikorski & Chris Wilhelm, 4
Runs Batted In...Sikorski, 22
Wins...Alex Eliopolous, 4
Earned Run Average...Matt Wiegand, 2.10
Strikeouts...Sam Eagleson, 34

Men's Tennis

Singles Wins...Andy Hersh, 18
Doubles Wins...Jacob Barnaby & Casey Blythe, 11

Women's Tennis

Singles Wins...Nandita Krishnan, 16
Doubles Wins...Courtney Boger & Abby Clark, 9



FILE PHOTO

The Lady Jays took sole possession of first place in the conference.

cused week in and week out without overlooking a single opponent, leading to a stellar conference record and a 10-1 record overall.

For Dwyer, this season holds a special significance as the only senior on a youthful team that boasts nine underclassmen.

Despite this being her last season for Hopkins, Dwyer understands the importance of remaining focused on the season at hand and the need for each member of the team to put forth their best effort.

The senior admits she'll miss the team, a fact that becomes evident when she speaks glow-

bring the final score to 11-6.

Boland found Goodrich moving from right to left above the crease and ripped another shot past Cathers.

Sophomore midfielder John Ranagan scored an unassisted goal with 2:08 to play in the first to give the Jays the 4-0 lead. It could've been as high as 7-0 if not for some impressive play by Cathers throughout the period.

Albany got on the board with five seconds to play in the quarter, and at the end of one it was 4-1. The Jays held a 13-3 advantage in shots in the period.

It was the same story for the second quarter. A three-goal streak by the Jays in the first six minutes of the period gave Hopkins a 7-1 lead.

Senior attackman Kyle Wharton scored his 15th and 16th goals of the season during the run, with sophomore midfielder Lee Coppersmith finding the back of the net in between Wharton's two goals.

The Danes cut the lead to five when Joe Resetarits scored the first goal of his hat trick with under five minutes to play in the half.

Play was back-and-forth for the remainder of the half, as senior midfielder Matt Dolente continued to win face-offs and sophomore goalie Pierce Basset made saves, each stop followed

The statistics from the game reveal a rather one-sided affair. The Jays almost doubled Albany's shots, 44-23, scooped up 13 more ground balls (38-25), failed on only one clear (19 for 20), Bassett posted five saves and, per usual, Dolente was dominant in the face-off category, winning 16-20, tying his career high. "We had a good week of practice and a good game plan coming in," said Dolente.

Head coach Dave Pietromala was proud of his team's performance, but realizes there are still improvements to be made.

"I thought we showed a lot of maturity," he said. "But we were too casual in the second half. It's still a good win, but hopefully this will wake us up a little bit."

Ranagan agreed with his coach's sentiments.

"We showed our age today," he said, in regards to allowing Albany to close the gap in the third.

Now the Jays must prepare for a big #3 vs. #4 showdown when Hopkins travels down to College Park, Md. on Saturday night to take on University of Maryland.

"We'll be ready to play for the full 60 minutes," added Ranagan. Face-off time for the 107th meeting between the teams is scheduled for 8 p.m.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Hopkins wrestling team recently donated over \$3,000 for charity to the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at the Kennedy-Krieger Institute.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY
Baseball vs. Gettysburg 3:30 PM

SATURDAY
Baseball vs. Ursinus 12:30 PM
M. Tennis vs. Muhlenberg 10 AM
W. Tennis vs. Muhlenberg 10 AM
W. Lacrosse vs. Northwestern 1 PM
M. & W. Track vs. Invite 10 AM

Borrelli's offensive strike leads Blue Jay Baseball

By STUART JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's baseball team dropped out of the national top 25 this week and fell to a tie for third place in the Centennial Conference after dropping both games of a doubleheader at Swarthmore on Sunday, though before recovering for a thrilling comeback win over McDaniel on Monday afternoon.

Entering Sunday, the Blue Jays sat atop the Centennial standings with only one defeat in conference play. The first game of the doubleheader, scheduled to last just seven innings, featured strong pitching from the Blue Jays' starter, graduate student Matt Wiegand.

After allowing a run in each of the first two innings, Wiegand recovered to finish with four straight scoreless frames and surrendered only four hits all afternoon.

The Blue Jays, however, could not break through against Swarthmore's starting hurler Ignacio Rodriguez who notched 6.1 shut-out innings to earn his fourth win of the year. Rodriguez left in the top of the seventh with the bases loaded and only one out, but reliever Ramsey Walker struck out the next two hitters to seal the 2-0 victory for the Garnet and earn his fifth save of the season.

The *News-Letter's* Athlete of the Week, graduate student and catcher Joe Borrelli led Hopkins with three hits in the first game while junior designated hitter Zach Small added two singles of his own. The Blue Jays' eight hits were double Swarthmore's total, but Hopkins left 12 runners on base in the game.

The second game featured significantly more offense as Swarthmore knocked Jays' junior pitcher Alex Eliopoulos from the game before he could record an out in the third inning. Eliopoulos was tagged for six runs, five of which were earned, in his two innings of work and by the end of the fourth inning Hopkins trailed 8-0.

The Jays mounted a bit of a comeback later in the contest, scoring two runs in the top of the sixth inning behind RBI singles from senior outfielder Jesse Sikorski and Small, which marked their first runs of the afternoon in either game. But the team could not dig themselves out of the early hole they had created and were defeated by the Garnet, 9-4.

Hopkins was forced to recover quickly from their two defeats when they met McDaniel at home the following afternoon. Hopkins prevailed in that game largely due to the efforts of Borrelli who played the game of his career.

Borrelli began his offensive explosion by driving home junior outfielder Mike Musary with a single in the top of the first. Sikorski followed with an RBI groundout to stake the Jays' starting pitcher, junior Sam Eagleson, to a 2-0 lead.

After Eagleson allowed McDaniel to tie the score in the top of the second inning, Hopkins answered in the bottom of the inning with more help from Borrelli. Shortly after junior outfielder Sam Wernick collected an RBI single to put Hopkins up by a run, Borrelli came to bat with the bases loaded and promptly cleared them by stroking a three run double to the wall in right center field.

Hopkins added another run in the top of the fourth when sophomore shortstop Kyle Neverman led off the inning with a towering home run to straight away center field for his third dinger of the season.

The teams traded runs in the sixth inning, with Hopkins' run coming on a solo home run from Borrelli.

The Jays appeared to be in good shape as the game headed into the top of the seventh inning with an 8-3 lead. But McDaniel notched two runs off Eagleson in the top of the seventh on a double from Green Terror catcher Chris Longo. Eagleson avoided further damage by striking out McDaniel's shortstop Ryan Byrnes, who represented the tying run, to end the inning.

Blue Jays' head coach Bob Babb elected to send Eagleson out to start the eighth inning and the Jays' starter retired the first two batters he faced. After a bunt single, however, McDaniel's third baseman Marshall Betts pounded a two-run homer to left field, making it a one run game.

McDaniel's left fielder Jimmy Najera followed another single with the second home run of the inning to put the Green Terror on top for the first time all day.

With the Blue Jays on the brink of another crushing defeat, they rallied in the bottom of the eighth inning. Wernick reached on an error to lead off the inning, but the next two Jays were retired. Then Borrelli stepped to the plate and officially put his stamp on the afternoon by launching a two run homer to right field to retake the lead for Hopkins and drive in his seventh run of the afternoon, a career high.

"With a runner on third in that situation you're just trying to get a base hit and tie the game," Borrelli said. "But obviously I'll take the home run."

Junior relief pitcher Aaron Schwartz, who finished the eighth inning for Eagleson, got the final three outs for Hopkins in the top of the ninth to earn the win.

After the game, Coach Babb was highly impressed by Borrelli's performance, but admitted his team has yet to find its groove.

"Had it not been for Joe we probably would have ended up with an 'L' instead of a 'W', but we just haven't found our rhythm yet and I'm a little concerned, but hopefully this come-from-behind win will get us going," Babb said.

The Jays now own a 14-10 overall record this season with a 7-3 mark in conference play.

Men's Lacrosse ready for battle of top-five teams at Maryland



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hopkins men's lacrosse survived a second half comeback to trounce the University of Albany 11-6 this past Friday under the Homewood Field lights. This coming weekend, the Jays travel to the University of Maryland for a game between top five ranked squads. See Page B11 for full coverage.

Valerio performs, shines at Duke Invitational

By TREVOR WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

For the Hopkins women's track team, senior Christina Valerio highlighted day one of the Duke Invitational. Continuing her impressive 2011 campaign, Valerio captured first place while setting a school record in the 10,000 meters, with a time of 36:01.99. Valerio cruised to victory, beating her closest competitor by over 35 seconds. Laura Paulsen, whose time of 36:38.98 was set in 2007, held the previous record.

The runner-up to Valerio was University of North Carolina's Carter Norbo who posted a 36:37.09. Valerio's time is not only significant for the Hopkins record books — it provisionally qualifies her for the NCAA's and gives her the third best time in the nation in the event.

In the 5000 meters, Hopkins earned a 16th place finish as freshman Holly Clarke turned in a time of 18:23.32 in the event.

In the shot put and javelin throw, sophomore Alana Merkow and freshman Emily Swenson both improved their times from the previous week's Penn Invitational, respectively. Merkow recorded a shot put throw of 11.74, which was good enough for 20th place. Swenson placed 9th behind a javelin throw of 38.89 meters, setting a freshman record.

In the 1500 meters, senior Elizabeth Laseter posted a team best of 4:53.34, freshman Frances Dougherty came in at 4:54.84 while fellow freshman Shayna Rose also came in at a sub-5 minute time of 4:59.49. Junior Cassie Cummings came in at 5:04.41 and freshman Lily Murphy followed closely at 5:05.52.

In the 400-meter hurdles, senior Anita Mikkilineni was just .31 seconds shy of breaking the school record as she posted a time of 1:06.61, which was good for 21st overall.

Day two for the Jays was highlighted by Laseter, beating her previous season-best in the 3000-meter steeplechase to qualify for the NCAA tournament and running the race in 11:09.27.

Falling just two seconds short of the school record, the 4x400 meter relay team of junior Alison Smith, Mikkilineni, junior Stephanie Chung and sophomore Amelia Vallenilla finished 17th in the event with a time of 4:03.10.

Mikkilineni had a strong showing in the 100-meter hurdles, earning a 19th place finish as she ran her season-best time of 15.89.

In the discus throw, junior Stephanie Amalfé had a strong performance as she had a mark of 37.52 meters, placing her 14th.

On the men's side, junior Andrew Yen highlighted day one for the Jays, placing 13th in the

Derek Hsu (22nd/52.02).

Juniors John Bartolotta and Ross Bittman each competed in both the 100 and 200-meter developmental dash on Friday. Bartolotta placed third in the 100 meters at 11.31 and 15th in the 200 with a time of 23.16 while Bittman took 6th in the 100 at 11.55 and 16th in the 200 with a mark of 23.45.

Competing in both the 100 and 200-meter developmental dash, Bartolotta and Bittman finished with times of 11.31 and 23.16, and 11.55 and 23.45, respectively.

The highlight of day two of the Duke Invitational was highlighted by Hahn's 18th place finish in the 3000-meter steeplechase, giving the Jays their highest finish in a main heat for the day.

In the main heat of the 800 meters, senior Elliot Wehner posted a time of 1:56.36, which earned him a 33rd place finish, while six of his teammates competed in the development of the same event.

Kumar and freshman Tobe Madu both competed in the 200-meter dash, finishing 37th/23.23 and 29th/23.47, respectively. Madu also had a solid showing in the 100 meters, finishing 36th with a time of 11:53.

On the relay front, Hopkins took seventh in the 4x800, 11th in the 4x400 and 18th in the 4x400 meters. The 4x800 meter team of Wehner, Press, Hyland and freshman Wes Butler finished in seventh place, with a time of 8:05.16. Madu, Hsu, sophomore Rob Martin and Kumar ran the 4x400 in 3:31.10 for a 11th place finish, while Martin, Bittman, freshman Brendan Evans and Madu took 18th in the 4x100 meters with a time of 43.84.

Both teams return to action at home this weekend at the Hopkins/Loyola Invitational. Come out and support your Blue Jays!



FILE PHOTO

Senior Elliot Wehner ran in the 800 meters this past weekend.

10,000 meters with an impressive time of 33:21.75.

In the 1500 meters, senior Brandon Hahn placed 45th as he competed in the main heat, posting a time of 4:07.30, while two of his teammates, freshman Julian Saliani (14th/4:09.97) and sophomore James Frick (17th/4:13.77) competed in the developmental heat of the 1500.

Senior Brahma Kumar posted a 51.29 in the 400 meters, good enough for 17th place. He was followed by freshman Collin Rozanski (19th/51.44) and junior

4x100 and 18th in the 4x400 meters. The 4x800 meter team of Wehner, Press, Hyland and freshman Wes Butler finished in seventh place, with a time of 8:05.16. Madu, Hsu, sophomore Rob Martin and Kumar ran the 4x400 in 3:31.10 for a 11th place finish, while Martin, Bittman, freshman Brendan Evans and Madu took 18th in the 4x100 meters with a time of 43.84.

Both teams return to action at home this weekend at the Hopkins/Loyola Invitational. Come out and support your Blue Jays!

Women's Tennis wins against the unbeaten

By ERICK SUN
Staff Writer

At the Schottland Tennis Center in Chestertown, Md., the Hopkins women's tennis team showed once again why they are the 13th ranked team in the nation, defeating then unbeaten Washington College 8-1 for a convincing victory.

The Blue Jays had a fast start as the tandems of freshman Haleigh Hogan and sophomore Nandita Krishnan, senior Abby Dwyer and junior Carolyn Warren, and junior Courtney Boger and freshman Abby Clark all won their doubles matches for a 3-0 team lead.

The excellent doubles performances were followed by a 5-1 record as Warren, Krishnan, Hogan, sophomore Ariel Sevela, and Clark each were victorious in singles.

Krishnan, coming off of her second consecutive Centennial Conference Player of the Week Award played well once again, winning 8-2 in doubles and 6-1, 6-4 in her singles match.

Despite the honors, Krishnan acknowledged Washington's talent.

"Going into the match, we knew Washington College was one of our biggest, if not the biggest challenger in the conference," she said.

Dwyer echoed Krishnan saying, "We knew that Wash College was going to be a lot better than the other teams in the conference."

Even though the Jays have had a stranglehold on the Centennial Conference the past few years, Hopkins never once overlooked Washington College.

According to Dwyer, this is due in large part to Head Coach Chuck Willenborg's focused

SEE W. TENNIS, PAGE B11



FILE PHOTO

Men's baseball hopes to churn their milk into custard and begin lighting up the scoreboard.

INSIDE

Wrestling: NWCA All-America Team


Two Hopkins wrestlers were placed on the NWCA All-America Team for their proficiency in the classroom and on the mats. **Page B11**

Athlete of the Week: Joe Borrelli

On Monday Borrelli was a one-man wrecking crew, hitting two home runs and breaking McDaniel in a 10-9 win over the Green Terror. **Page B11**

Playoff Preview: NBA countdown

As the final games of the regular season wind down, there are several teams ready to mix it up in the hunt for the Finals. **Page B10**



The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter Presents:

The Underground

April 14, 2011

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A world beyond the bounds of campus

While as Hopkins students we will spend at least four years in Baltimore, many of us never make it more than a mile or two off campus. Where is the sense of adventure and thirst for the new and unusual? Baltimore may not be New York City or Los Angeles, but this isn't a bad thing. It's a big city with a small town feel, and if you know where to look, it really does have something for everyone. In this edition of *The Underground* we hope to give you a window into some of the cooler things happening in Baltimore. We think they're worth knowing about and checking out.

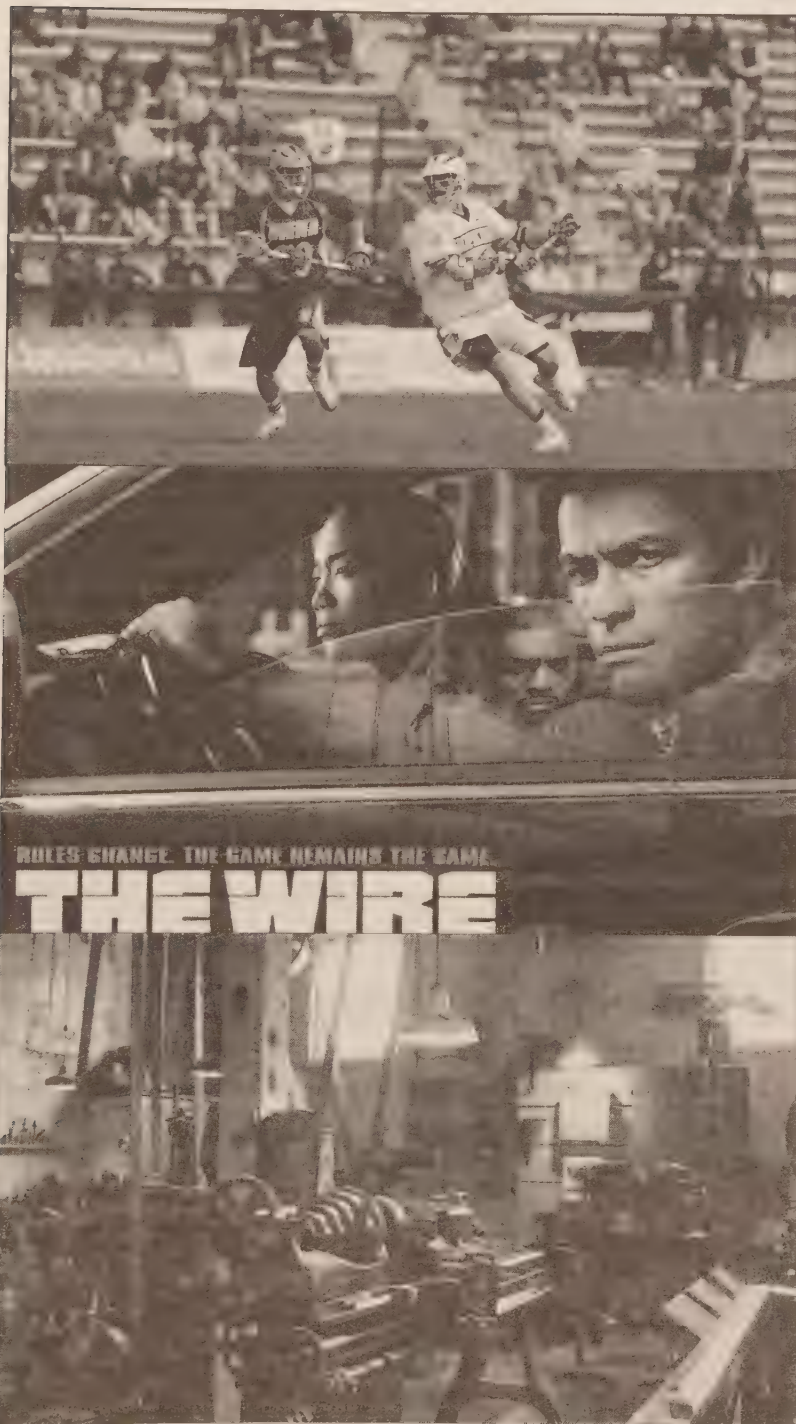
One of the big symbols of Baltimore is its baseball team, and if you like the sport you should catch a game at least once at Camden Yards, one of the most beautiful stadiums in the country. While the Orioles have had thirteen losing seasons in a row, they are showing signs of resurgence under new manager Buck Showalter. And if you want advice on how to get cheap tickets, you will find it in this edition. If you like football, you can check out the Baltimore Ravens, who have had a far more successful decade. And of course, there is always Hopkins lacrosse. If you haven't been following the Blue Jays, check out page 12 for an update.

Baltimore also has a fascinating history. Did you know the first deaths of the American Civil War occurred in this city, 150 years ago on April 19? Check out page 22 for the story. Before that, a key battle of the War of 1812 occurred in and around Baltimore, an event that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner." Baltimore also sat at one end of the world's first telegraph line.

In addition, Baltimore has some great museums. Most Hopkins students know about the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Walters Art Gallery, but Baltimore has so much more to offer. The fascinating Baltimore Museum of Industry is featured on page 15, and others such as the USS Constellation Museum in the Inner Harbor, the American Visionary Art Museum, the Sports Legends Museum, and the Maryland Historical Society are scattered around the city.

With this as a starting point, give Baltimore a first look or a second chance.

— Rian Dawson and Peter Sicher, Magazine Editors



COURTESY OF EDDIE WANG, WWW.HRMINION.COM AND ANN WANG.

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Who is the face behind the well-loved Baltimore staple? And how did he come up with the idea to give out free books? This piece goes beyond the surface of The Book Thing to get at the heart of the non-profit organization's mission.

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What type of pop culture references were born in Baltimore? And which places in Baltimore have been made famous by Hollywood and media?

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With the anniversary of the American Civil War close at hand, The Underground attempts to localize this national anniversary with a look at one of the first acts of aggression of the war in Baltimore.

Writers in Baltimore Program allows JHU students to be teachers

By FLORENCE LAU
Your Weekend Editor

When Patrice Hutton graduated from Hopkins in 2008, unlike many of her classmates, she was not looking forward to medical school or law school. Instead, she was busy pursuing funding options and setting up Writers in Baltimore Schools (WBS), a program dedicated to proving low-income middle school students with initiatives for literary development and engaging them in workshops and creative writing classes, both during the school year and over the summer.

"Middle school is a time when something that needs to be happening is not happening," Hutton said. "Students were not engaged with reading. [WBS] was founded on the idea of coming in middle school, getting students interested, and letting them write about what they wanted to write about and read what they wanted to read."

The roots for this program began when Hutton was a student at Hopkins, where she studied creative writing. She also volunteered at six or seven different public schools. The contrast between Hopkins and the surrounding community, especially the lower-income public schools, appalled her.

She found that the number of students who passed their reading assessment in Baltimore dropped 22 percent between the fifth and eighth grades. This inspired her and a friend to talk during their senior year about workshops for middle school students; WBS was a way Hutton could make a difference and renew the students' love of literature by the time they enter high school. She believed that the reason she went into creative writing was due to the encouragement of her own elementary and middle school teachers, who liberally assigned her creative writing projects.

Now, Hutton seeks to extend that same opportunity to other students in the Baltimore area. "The program focuses on creative writing because oftentimes, writing in school is associated with essays and papers. WBS wants to encourage kids to write and show them that writing can be more than just a tedious homework assignment. It can be a fun way of expressing oneself," Hutton said.

The program began at Margaret Brent Elementary school in February 2008 and expanded from there, especially after WBS received the Baltimore Community Fellowship from the Open Society



COURTESY OF PATRICE HUTTON
Hopkins students act as writing instructors to Baltimore youth as a part of the WBS program.

Institute, which funded the program for eighteen months. Since December 2008, Hutton has been working full-time for the program. She has also received a lot of support from other sources, like Hopkins.

"Hopkins has just gives us so much support in so many ways," Hutton said. "For example, the Center of Social Concern has donated office space, and the writing seminars department has sent out emails when we need tutors."

WBS runs through the support of many other individuals and groups, including The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council. Other companies sponsor the students' literary magazine, such as the Charles Village Barnes and Noble and Maxie's Pizza Bar Grille.

Hutton founded WBS on the idea of workshops, and she has maintained that model. Workshops generally meet during or after school once or twice per week for an hour at a time, during which students are challenged to draft, revise, and edit their pieces.

As well as writing, students in WBS read shorter and longer pieces of fiction and poetry, from flash fiction to historical fiction. Students have read everything from Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* to Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven* to cartoon writing in the form of Garfield, Peanuts, and Spider-Man. The main focus, though, is always fiction and creativity.

WBS also runs two free summer programs - Creative Writing Camp and Summer Writing Studio - that will continue to serve the students they work with during the school year.

Finally, a student anthology comprising of the students' works is published

biannually.

Although Hutton is in charge of the administrative aspects of WBS, she still tutors students as well.

"It really gives me a better idea of what the program needs," she said.

However, WBS doesn't just benefit the kids. Ask Zoey Friedman, who graduated in 2010 with a double major in writing seminars and English. She has been involved in WBS since her junior year, when Hutton sent an email to the writing seminars majors asking for volunteers. Friedman was given a workshop, and now, two years later, she is still volunteering and teaching one workshop to 8th graders per week.

Volunteering and teaching the workshops benefitted Friedman in the long run, she believes. "It was extremely influential for me [in that] I realized whether I had the aptitude to be a teacher and if I wanted to be part of education. The strength of the program just throws you into teaching," she said.

Friedman has just been accepted to the Teach for America program, another organization that seeks to lessen the inequality in education in the United States, and being part of WBS definitely helped her on that road.

"You get assigned a workshop and then you design your own curriculum and lesson plans," Friedman explained. "It's daunting and you make a lot of mistakes, but it's taught me a lot of lessons about how to teach and how to work with kids, so it prepared me for teaching in the classroom."

In fact, she did not even want to work with middle schools in the first place, because she initially believed that they were the toughest group of students to work with.

"They're at the age when you can't teach them simple things. They're crossing over to analytical thinking, and they're at a weird place developmentally, hormonally," she admitted.

Like Hutton, Friedman loves the program because of the kids.

"They force you to be the best you can be," she said.

"They know when you don't have your stuff together...if you're not on top of everything, things will become a nightmare."

Much is going on to improve the program beyond simple story-crafting. The Theatre Club was formed to let students study acting and playwriting by writing and producing their own original play over the course of a year. Recently, WBS has formed a partnership with Parallel Octave, a Baltimore based improvising chorus run by Dara Weinburg. There is also an inaugural program for WBS alumni, students who are now in high school, in the works.

Edward P. Jones, a Pulitzer Prize author, is planning to conduct a workshop and speak to students about his experiences in the literary field. WBS is constantly looking to grow and transform into something that will really make an impact on the Baltimore community.

Friedman had advice for anyone who wants to become part of the program.

"Don't lower your expectations for the kids. Challenge them and don't try and bring in age-appropriate or infantile works of literature. Once you stop challenging them, they realize that and they underachieve. Go in with an open mind, be flexible, and challenge yourself and challenge the kids," she said.

WBS truly helps students reach their full potential.

Just look at 9th graders Robtrea Brown and Terrell Kellam, both of who won the 2010 Words on Wheels poetry contest last year. Their poems will be displayed on Baltimore City busses and trains for a year.

Hutton summed up her project and her goals simply.

"There's so much that needs to happen to make education great for people in Baltimore, and this is just a really tiny piece," she said.

"I should do my part in getting kids invested in reading at a critical age. Middle school kids have an amazing imagination, and we're just giving them a space to pursue that through writing. Just spending time with the kids is amazing, because they teach me so much more. It's so nice to be learning from them."

WBS is also hosting an event on Wednesday, April 20th on the Homewood campus. Six Baltimore authors will be reading alongside WBS students.

The Underground

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SKATEPARK TO




HELP LOCAL SKATE CULTURE PULL A 180

The Underground

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

April 14, 2011

5



I never had any real interest in skateboarding. I remember in high school, the kids who skateboarded were also the ones who flunked all their classes and seemed to not care about anything. While I met a few people in college who skateboarded, none of them were that into the sport. Most used their skateboard as a means of transportation, a means of getting from point A to point B with speed and efficiency.

By **HUSAIN DANISH**
Science & Technology Editor

I learned about the skate park in Hampden through a friend of mine in my photography class. She had done her entire semester project on the place. Her photographs were beautiful and I was naturally enchanted. When, during another photography class I was assigned the task of doing some "street photography," I used the project as an excuse to check out the skate park for myself.

The Hampden skate park, officially called the Skatepark of Baltimore, is located in Roosevelt Recreation Center at the end of 36th street (known as the Avenue in Hampden). I looked up the directions on Google Maps, grabbed by camera and headed out. Of course, as I often do, I failed to completely understand the directions and ended up wandering through Hampden for an hour before I finally got to the skate park.

As I entered the skate park, I became anxious. Maybe it was because of the weather—it was dark and cloudy when I arrived at the park—but I felt uneasy when I walked through the wire fence. The park was empty. I called out just to make sure I didn't miss anyone. I was disappointed. Looking around, I was unimpressed. The park lacked the energy that I sensed from my friend's pictures.

Frustrated, I began to walk back to campus. I still needed to do my street photography project so I began to take random

pictures of the people of Hampden. As I expected, I felt uninspired. Although the people of Hampden are not uninteresting, I simply felt nothing could match the skate park photos that, alas, were never to be.

Then I saw him. Coming down the avenue, a kid was riding on his skateboard. I would later learn his name is Matt. He and his friends began to do tricks on the sidewalk. I am a naturally shy person, so for me, approaching random people on the street and asking them if I could take their picture is nothing less than torture. But I knew I had to take the opportunity, so I approached the kids and told them who I was and why I wanted to take photos. Then, the tough question: can I take your picture? When I heard the words, "yeah sure" I let out a sigh of relief. For the next half hour I took pictures of the kids on that one street corner.

I asked them if they were going to go to the skate park. They looked at each other and debated for a few minutes. Most of them said they had to go home. Matt, however, said he would go for a little. I began to follow him down the street. My mood had changed. I was much more relaxed and confident. Then Matt stopped. He saw a friend and they began to chat. I waited for ten minutes before Matt came and told me he had changed his mind. I was a little annoyed but Matt insisted I should still go to the park. There will definitely be people there. The sun had come out and, despite the slight set back, I was still optimistic.

There was one guy at the park when I

The Underground

“What struck me most was the range of people who came to the park. I saw kids as young as 10 and guys as old as 26. Some of the people there told me that, occasionally, parents also come by and skateboard with their kids. The park is a part of the culture and community of Hampden.”

arrived. I got very excited and rushed to talk to the guy. His name was Sean and he was there with his girlfriend. I introduced myself and told him of my project. He was fine with me photographing and he went on to practice as usual. I got my equipment together and began to take pictures. Slowly, people began to trickle into the park. Again and again, I went through the same shtick of introducing myself and then asking for permission to take pictures. Before my eyes, I saw the place transformed. What I first saw as dead and dreary exploded with activity.

The key to a good photo shoot is building a relationship with the people you are photographing. The easiest way of building any relationship is to simply begin a conversation. The guys there were just as curious about me as I was about them: asking what I studied at Hopkins, where I was from, how long I had been practicing photography. I felt surprisingly at ease.

Gaining respect in any trade is all about how you project yourself. In photography, you do not share every picture you take. You put your best foot forward and show only the best. That way, people are more likely to get excited by what they see. The same is true in skateboarding. Left and right, the guys at the park were asking me to come over and take their picture as they practiced their tricks.

What struck me the most was the range of people who came to the park. I saw kids as young as 10 and guys as old as 26. Some of the people there told me that, occasionally, parents also come by and skateboard with their kids. The park is a part of the culture and community of Hampden.

I spent almost two hours at the park.

I was ready to leave, quite satisfied with the pictures I took that day. As I gathered my gear together, a kid approached me. He looked very young. His name was Mikey. He asked me if I wanted to take any pictures of him. At first, I wanted to say no; I need to get back to school and do work. However, he looked really excited and looked like he really wanted me to take his picture. So, I agreed to stay just a little bit longer. Mikey began doing some tricks. He was new to skateboarding and had only started six months earlier. However, he was determined to impress me. As I took his picture, I began asking him questions: why did he start skateboarding, why does he like the sport, what other activities does he do, how is school? He told me he was a shy kid. He began skateboarding because he wanted to meet more people, be a part of something.

I paused for a moment and looked at my camera. Isn't this the same reason I do photography? I want to get out of that bubble I feel I have created around myself. I, like Mikey, want to connect with other people on a deeper level, beyond a "Hello, how are you." I took a few more pictures of Mikey and then called it a day. I said my goodbyes and left the park. I told them I would return someday to take more pictures. Whether I actually get the chance to, who knows.

On my walk home I began thinking about my experience at the park. I had an interest in skateboarding. I did not about to begin skateboarding. But, I felt I left that park a bit smarter, knowing why they skateboard and why I take pictures. The guys at the skate park gave me more than a few good photos that day. They gave a new window of knowledge to myself.



APRIL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SAINT-DANISH

The Underground

The front door of The Book Thing of Baltimore opens to a sign that reads, "We are open every Saturday and Sunday 9 am – 6 pm (including holidays and blizzards)." Directly above, another sign announces the genre "True Adventure," an invitation into the warehouse buffet of books.

By BARBARA LAM
Copy Editor

Inside, people are in various stages of scavenging through all kinds of the written word. A little girl crouches by a bin of picture books, digging with two hands, while her mother clutches several finds to her chest and shuffles around stacks of *The New Yorker*. A man in a motorcycle jacket wheels a small cart to the U.S. politics section and a girl in a Goucher College sweater drags a spacious cardboard box to the crime section and begins pulling novels off the shelf. Books at The Book Thing get more action than books at any average store or library, not only because there are great titles to be found—everything from *Moby Dick* to the Norton Anthology to *Advice from a Failure*—but also because whatever you find is yours for free.

The goal of The Book Thing is to recycle books in the community with an attitude of any book, anybody.

"Those books gathering dust in your attic or basement are wanted by someone," the website, www.bookthing.org, says. "Donate them to us and we'll find them a loving home."

The organization has been doing just that for over ten years, moving from the back of founder Russell Wattenberg's van to a basement to its current home at 3001 Vineyard Lane.

It began when Wattenberg first came to Baltimore 16 years ago.

"I stopped for gas in October of '95 and I just haven't left," is how he explains his reason for being here.

One thing led to another and he found Baltimore constantly asking him to stay a little longer.

"I was driving from New York to Florida and I just stopped for gas... I called up a friend of mine in college who lived in Baltimore, said 'Can I crash on your couch for a couple of hours?' Ended up taking her and her boyfriend out to dinner that night," Wattenberg explained. "He needed a hand renovating a house for a few days. Which turned into a few weeks. And while I was doing that, the guy I used to work for up in New York doing mystery shopping gave me a call and said he had a couple of accounts down here in Baltimore. Then I ended up managing a bar for four years. Then I started The Book Thing." He gestured to the room full of books behind him.

"You could call it fate," he said, shrugging. "You could call it accidental."

More than any kind of destiny, Wattenberg's passion has helped propel The Book Thing into success. When he was managing the bar, Dougherty's Pub, he would buy books himself, set up shop in the back of his car and tell teachers to take what they wanted. Word spread about his "book thing" and people began bringing him donations.

Wattenberg applied for 501(c)(3) status in Sept. of '99 and quit his job at the bar two months later to dedicate all his time to the budding organization.

The Book Thing has grown to incorporate many volunteers and customers since then, but Wattenberg still affectionately takes a hands-on role. Working in the back of the warehouse on Vineyard, he looks like any other volunteer in his grungy jeans and threadbare white t-shirt. He fields phone calls from first-time visitors, grabs drinks for the other workers, sorts books and helps unload new donations.

"I get donations from pretty much everywhere," he said as the fifth person within the last half hour added to the book drop outside. "And people come and get books from everywhere." Most customers find out about The Book Thing from word of mouth. Those who stumble upon it on the web "...almost always call to make sure it's real. They're never sure [if] it's just someone with a card table with 12 books on it."

Wattenberg found that his biggest challenge has been convincing others that it's not a scam.

"I never really advertised...because I found that if I advertise nobody believes me anyway," he said.

In the organization's early days, *City Paper* offered Wattenberg free ad space to reach out to the public, but the announcement didn't draw in many visitors.

"I thought [it] was pretty cool [of them]. 'Free books,' I said. 'Book thing in Baltimore.' Gave the address, the phone number, the hours, the website. So I wait for it to come out on Wednesday, take a look at it, and it's an ad for free books—in between an ad for free phone sex and free long distance." He laughed, continuing, "So that's one of the hardest things. Trying to convince people that I want to give books for free."

Even without the help of advertising, word of The Book Thing has spread like gossip through the community. Satisfied customers are referring friends to the organization, and many now come to wander the warehouse—a lot of the fun lies in the search—while others come with greater purpose.

"Most of the nonprofits, if you try and donate books to them...99 percent of the time they're dropped off here. Then they'll pick up the ones they actually need. Because people drop off the *Reader's Digest Condensed Books* or thousands of romance novels, but what they need are books on becoming a paralegal. It's the exchange," Wattenberg said.

Several organizations will work through The Book Thing this way, switching out what they have for something more useful to them. One group makes a trip from the Philippines every year, bringing an 18-wheeler to haul a truckload of books back to universities and schools abroad.

The Book Thing stamp, found inside every book that passes through the warehouse, has been sighted all over the world.

"Some groups [get books to] ship to Africa," Wattenberg said. "Especially medical books that don't rely on electricity. If you don't have an x-ray machine that functions, a medical book that relies on x-rays doesn't do you a whole lot of good."

The constant exchange allows The Book Thing to live as a self-perpetuating machine. It acts as a medium for people who want to trade books, and many find that they unwittingly end up trading with themselves.

"Sometimes somebody will donate a book and two years later they're looking for another copy of it and they'll find their copy here. Because somebody picked it up, and somebody returned it. Somebody picked it up, somebody returned it," he said.

Over the course of a year, Wattenberg sees approximately the same number of books coming in as the number going out. The titles are always changing, and the biggest influxes occur in May and June when students and schools clean out their classrooms and backpacks. In September, new students will come by and pick up those same textbooks.

Between owners, books find a safe home with Wattenberg. The ongoing recycling has made The Book Thing a valuable institution in the Baltimore community. The idea itself though, can be applied anywhere.

"I have no copyright or monopoly on giving away books," Wattenberg said, emphasizing that he encourages others to be inspired by The Book Thing. "And nobody needs to have an organization to give away books. You don't need a space. You don't need anything to give away books. What you need is the desire. You don't even need the books."

Several ex-volunteers have gone on to found their own versions of the organization in different states. Anyone can do it, Wattenberg stressed.

"What I had one person do was print up flyers that said, 'If you have books, bring them to [this] parking lot,' on this day if you want books come to this parking lot. [Those guys] never set foot in the parking lot...but it became a big event, people came. All they did was post flyers. Never touched a book."

Another inspired book giver remodels newspaper boxes of papers that have gone out of business.

"He takes them and builds shelves into them [and] spray

paints them. He just sticks a couple planks in, fills them up with books and puts them back out on the street... And people will take books."

These giving projects are what Wattenberg wants more of the community involved in.

"I'd love to see more of the fraternities, sororities, sports teams or whatever do more book drives in the community... have every club or group adopt either a nursing home or a school," Wattenberg said.

He has worked with Hopkins students in the past, receiving help from APO and Circle K volunteers, but what he really wants is more direct community involvement on their part.

"[They could] grab kids books from here and bring them to a school so that students can read... No matter how geeky the Hopkins students may feel, to a second grader they're old and cool, you know?"

Wattenberg himself is thinking about new ways to give. "One of these days I might expand into things besides books. Something like The Furniture Thing, The Clothing Thing, The Thing Thing... I don't know what's next. But for the next—I promise—at least 40 years, I'll be in Baltimore, because that's how long my wife as of two days has made me commit to being here," he said laughing.

Wattenberg is in a new phase of his life, with a wedding ring on his finger and the end of the warehouse's mortgage in sight. His goal is to pay off the building within the next two years, which will give the organization more flexibility with opportunities.

Getting loans in the beginning was a struggle, with banks questioning the reliability of a business that operated on an everything-is-free basis. The Book Thing proved successful though, and Wattenberg has funded his project in creative ways like selling rare editions and renting books by the square feet to movie sets. He refuses to actively ask for money from the community.

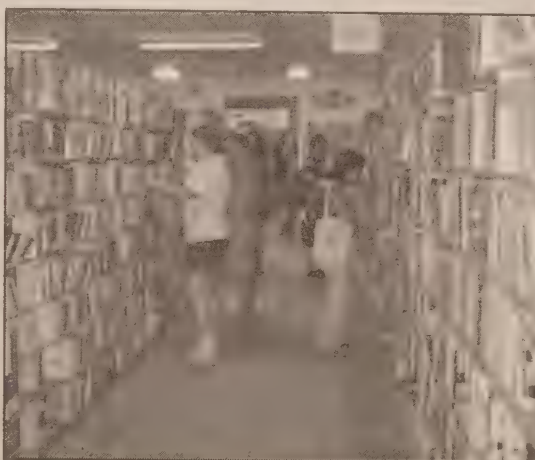
"We don't have a can saying 'donations here' at the exit. We don't solicit anything from foundations, we don't ask anybody for anything," Wattenberg emphasized.

His biggest priority is to give and encourage others to take, and the community has responded. By the exit, a stack of sign-out sheets show the variety of people who have come through, and how many books they've taken. Though the names and numbers vary, the comments are all the same: "Thank you."



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

At The Book Thing, you can pick up books for free and either keep them or exchange them when you're finished.



COURTESY OF LIBRARYTHING.COM

The Book Thing is located at 3001 Vineyard Lane.

The Underground

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10

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

April 14, 2011

From Waters to *The Wire*: A pop culture guide to Baltimore

By **CHRISTINA WARNER**
Managing Editor

There are many ways to explore the city of Baltimore. You can drink your way through the famous bars of Federal Hill and Fells Point, or take a bite out of Maryland cooking with Old Bay-heavy recipes from local favorites.

But, do a little digging and you can uncover the cultural landmarks of the city that aren't found in a history book or museum. These are the places you've heard about over the radio or seen up on the silver screen. This is the tour of Charm City's pop culture.

Television

The Wire

The most obvious Baltimore references comes in the form of David Simon's *The Wire* which aired on HBO from 2002 to 2008. While viewership was low, *The Wire* has consistently been hailed by critics as one of the best shows on television and a visual novel of realism.

It is not completely advisable to take a tour of East Baltimore in order to relive the days of D'Angelo, Avon and the Barksdale crew. Driving through the film locations of Oliver, Broadway East and Middle East will showcase the low-income area. But five seasons of *The Wire* has already taught you about that.

Instead, visit Baltimore's Wax Museum for a traditional tourist stop. The surrounding areas (specifically the blocks behind it) served as the fourth season's Hamsterdam, an experiment in drug

legalization. Visually, though, it is quite different as the row houses have been torn down, leaving only a field of grass now.

For a quick bite, try Faidley's in Lexington Market, which serves crab cakes that Detective McNulty was known to reference and even bring to other cops on stakeouts. Afterwards, try some B'more-brewed beer at the famous Brewer's Art on N. Charles St. where Devonne seduced Marlo.

Finally, there are a few stops on *The Wire* tour that Hopkins students who use the JHMI shuttle might recognize. Herc arrested the previously mentioned Marlo at Penn Station and Bodie visited Pearson's Flowership (which the JHMI passes) for a funeral arrangement. And for those who travel to the Med Campus, the Northeastern Market food court was the location in Season 2 where McNulty had his children shadow Stringer Bell.

Homicide: Life on the Streets

This seven-season NBC show was based on David Simon's book *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets*. One of the many real Baltimore locations referenced is Jimmy's Diner in Fell's Point. This character favorite is a must for a weekend breakfast trip.

Mad Men



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

A brief Baltimore reference graced this NYC-centric show when Don Draper and Salvatore visited The Belvedere hotel. The episode included a not so unexpected revelation about one character's sexual orientation.

Literary

F. Scott Fitzgerald

This may be one of the easiest stops on the culture tour to achieve as the American author resided in none other than Wolman Hall in the 1930s. His wife Zelda was a patient at both the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital and the Henry Phipps Clinic. She also took painting classes at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).

Edgar Allen Poe

Get double your culture fix by visiting the Poe house, which was mentioned in passing in *The Wire*. The Poe House & Museum, in Lexington, is open from April to December. When Poe and his mother resided there, the surrounding area was still countryside.

You can also mark your calendars for January 19, which is an eventful (and cold) day to visit Poe's gravesite at Westminster Hall. Each year an anonymous "Poe Toaster" leaves behind three red roses and half a bottle of cognac.

There is also some evidence that points to Poe's visitation of the taverns and bars in Fells Point. A rumor still exists that Poe's ghost haunts The Horse You Came In On Saloon.

H.L. Mencken

This infamous critic and Baltimore journalist reported for The Baltimore Sun and The Baltimore Morning Herald. His wife was a professor at Goucher College and many of his books are housed at the Enoch Pratt Free Library

in Mount Vernon.

Film

John Waters

As one of Charm City's most colorful characters, director John Waters drew fame to the Hampden area by Hopkins. Accessible by the Blue Jay Shuttle or a twenty-minute walk, Hamden is home to such boutiques and restaurants like The Hon Café which features such garish objects as the yard ornaments from the film *Pink Flamingos*.

Barry Levinson

Director Barry Levinson's 1982 breakout film, *The Diner*, provides myriad tourist locations. The Hollywood Diner, which has undergone both a name and location change, is now located at the cross of Saratoga and Hollywood Streets, right by City Hall. Food runs cheap and fresh, but take note that the diner is not open on weekends.

Matt Porterfield

If this name doesn't sound familiar then you should listen to the buzz in the Gilman Atrium or around the Krieger School of Arts & Science. Porterfield is an up-and-coming director and Film & Media Studies professor. Famous critics, like Roger Ebert, have recently hailed his works for their gritty realism and honesty.

His films *Hamilton* and *Putty Hill* are both centered on their namesakes. Visit Carroll Park Skatepark for some athletic exertion and to see where the skating and tagging scene from *Putty Hill* took place.

Do these locations sound like enough to keep your inner-tourist and culture-enthusiast occupied?

Better get to it because the list is only getting longer – Julia Louis-Dreyfus's HBO pilot will be filming somewhere in Charm City.

your tracks

Get in the B'more groove with these songs named after our favorite city.

1. Ogun feat. Phathead — "What You Know About Baltimore"
2. 50 Cent — "Baltimore Love Thing"
3. Graham Parsons — "Streets of Baltimore"
4. Randy Newman — "Baltimore"
5. Tori Amos — "Baltimore"
6. Counting Crows — "Raining in Baltimore"

The Underground

Mid-season report: Lacrosse shows promise early in season

By MIKE PORAMBO
Staff Writer

After a disappointing 7-8 season last year, many doubted whether the Hopkins men's lacrosse team could turn it around this year. The team graduated five players who were mainstays in the Blue Jays starting line-up over the past four years, namely Steven Boyle, Michael Kimmel, Matt Drenan, Sam DeVore and Michael Gvozden, leaving a large group of relatively inexperienced players to fill in the gaps. Many doubted if this youth-laden squad had the ability to compete with other top-notch lacrosse programs.

The doubters have been proved wrong. The Jays are 8-2 on the year and are ranked #3 in NCAA Division I lacrosse. The team has strong senior leadership, dynamic underclassmen midfielders, a sturdy defensive unit, a dominant faceoff specialist, a nearly unbeatable goalie and serious depth at each position. The team has hit its stride in the past few weeks and looks ready to make a run to win Hopkins's 10th national championship.

The program has already reached many important milestones through the course of the season. In a thrilling 10-9 victory over #4 North Carolina on April 3rd, head coach Dave Pietromala earned his 200th win as a college head coach, winning 120 of those as the head coach of the Jays.

Senior attackman Kyle Wharton scored his 75th goal and 100th point of his career in the victory as well. The team became the first program in college lacrosse to reach 900 overall wins in a week one victory over Towson.

With eight underclassmen in the starting lineup, Hopkins is indeed young. At times, they have shown their youth, but they have also clearly proven themselves capable of handling the pressure of playing for a college lacrosse powerhouse. Underclassmen have scored 59 goals and have amassed 94 points of the team's 153 total.

Sophomore attackman Zach Palmer leads the team in 15 assists and is tied for the lead with 29 points. The starting midfield and defensive squads are comprised exclusively of underclassmen, with two sophomores and a freshman in each unit.

Sophomore John Ranagan leads the midfield in goals (13), assists (9) and points (22). His ability to not only dodge but also run right over defenders has made him extremely difficult to defend, forcing defensive slides and creating openings in opponents' defenses. He posted a career-high five points in a 16-5 drubbing of UMBC with two goals and three assists.



The men's lacrosse team's current record is 8-2, a vast improvement over last year's 7-8 season. The team looks to win Hopkins's 10th National Championship.

EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With three goals and an assist in the victory over UNC, he earned Big City Classic MVP honors. Not too far behind him is sophomore John Greeley with eight goals and eight assists, and freshman Rob Guida has contributed eight goals and an assist. Guida was crucial to the thrilling 12-11 victory over #6 Virginia. His second goal of the game tied the contest at 11-11 with 4:49 remaining, and he assisted senior Chris Boland's game-winning goal.

The defensive unit of sophomores Tucker Durkin, Chris Lightner and freshman Jack Reilly have allowed only 64 goals on the season, and rank third in the nation in scoring defense (6.4). The play of long-stick midfielders Ben Smith and Orry Michael has been outstanding, and short-stick defensive midfielders Tim Donovan and Phil Castronova have proved themselves capable of playing such a difficult position. The squad has held opponents scoreless for 14 minutes or more 14 times this season. They have consistently shut down some of the best goal scorers in college lacrosse, including Syracuse attackman Tim Desko, Virginia attackman Chris Bocklett and North Carolina attackman Nicky Galasso.

The starting attack unit has provided the necessary senior leadership. Wharton and fellow senior Chris Boland lead the team in goals, with 16 and 19, respectively. Wharton has had three hat tricks on the season, netting three goals in victories versus Towson, Delaware and North Carolina. When given space, he can score from almost any spot on the field, releas-

ing shots with more velocity than any other player in Division I lacrosse. Boland has been the field general of the offensive unit, leading the team in goals (19) and tied for the lead in points (29). His ability to maneuver about the net and work his way around the crease has created numerous scoring opportunities for the Jays.

While the attack, midfield and defense have all been outstanding on the season, the team would not be 8-2 without the exceptional play of two players in particular: faceoff specialist Matt Dolente and goalie Pierce Bassett.

Both named to *Inside Lacrosse's* mid-season All-American First Team, each has been dominant in their respective positions. Dolente has won 113 faceoffs in 161 attempts, an almost-unfathomable .702 winning percentage, leading the league by a wide margin. He leads the team in ground balls (61) by a mile, scooping up 37 more than the next closest player. He's won 13 or more faceoffs in six games, winning 13 of 14 versus both Siena and Manhattan, 15 of 20 versus UMBC, 14 of 24 versus Virginia, 16 of 22 versus UNC and 16 of 20 versus Albany. Each of these games ended in victory for the Jays.

Bassett, too, has played like a man possessed. With the fourth lowest goals against average in Division I lacrosse (6.16) and the third highest save percentage (.622), Bassett often takes the team on his back, repeatedly making spectacular save after spectacular save. He has made 10 or more saves in four games against Delaware, Siena,

Syracuse and Virginia. In arguably the best performance by a goalie this year, Bassett posted 16 saves in a 5-4 double-overtime loss to Syracuse. He makes every save that he should and then some, shocking opposing players, stopping shots from point-blank range. He is a key part of the Hopkins defensive unit, which ranks third in scoring defense.

This team has the depth to go deep into the playoffs. The team loses nothing with the second midfield on the turf. The team of junior Marshall Burkhart, senior Mark Goodrich and sophomore Lee Coppersmith have combined for 14 goals and five assists, ably beating defenders and ripping shots past goalies. Coppersmith has emerged as a go-to player in the past few weeks, posting his first career hat trick versus Virginia and scoring the game-winner vs. North Carolina.

On attack, freshman Brandon Benn has played in all 10 games, scoring two goals and adding an assist. Defensively, junior Gavin Crisafulli is a mainstay on the man-down defense and can effectively fill in for his peers.

While very young, the 2011 Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team is extremely talented and motivated. With four other very talented teams left on the schedule (Maryland, Navy, Loyola, Army), this team has found its stride at the right time.

They have the inherent ability and drive to win out the regular season and enter the playoffs ready to win its 10th national championship.

Hopkins LAX sees a renewal in this year's young team

By ERICK SUN
Staff Writer

Duke 18, JHU 5. That's all from Durham. Duke advances to the second round, while Johns Hopkins finishes the season with a 7-8 record."

With that call from *Inside Lacrosse's* Joe McLean, the 2010 Hopkins men's lacrosse team finished off their season at Koskinen Stadium in Durham, N.C., with the program's first losing record since 1971. And after jumping off to a respectable 3-0 start to the 2011 season only to fall to the Princeton Tigers 3-8 on Homewood field, many felt a repeat of last season was on its way.

But oh what a difference a year makes. Since that Princeton loss, this year's Jays have gone 5-1, bringing #1 Syracuse to overtime and taking down #2 Virginia and #6 North Carolina in consecutive weeks for a sterling 8-2 record, already eclipsing last season's win total.

With wins over such top programs as UVA and UNC, confidence continues to build for this young Jays team as they continue to grow and develop together.

And with that confidence, excellent play has followed. As a team, Hopkins has shown a propensity to play not only the slow-down, tempo-controlling style that has been a staple of past championships teams, but also a newer up-and-down, run-and-gun style that has notched double-digit goal totals in eight of the season's 10 games so far.

On the other end of the field, keeping goals out of the net has been the job of sophomore goaltender Pierce Bassett and sophomore defender Tucker Durkin. Those two, along with key contributors such as freshman defensive middle Phil Castronova and senior long stick middle Ben Smith, have solidified a Hopkins defense that has given up a scarce 6.4 goals against average. This stellar GAA is good enough to be third in the nation, a far cry from last season's 9.6 mark.

Pierce, an *IL* Top 100 freshman coming in last season joined the team sitting behind starter Michael Gvozden and sophomore backup Steven Burke. But Bassett moved steadily up the depth chart and was inserted into the starting lineup halfway through his freshman year, taking over for senior Gvozden who previously had a stronghold on the position since 2008.

Bassett had to grow up quickly as he stepped into some big shoes as a first-year player, following in the footsteps of a long line of top-notch Hopkins goalies such as Jesse Schwartzmann '07, Rob Scherr '03 and current ESPN analyst Quint Kes-senich '90. Bassett struggled in his first



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After wins over UVA and UNC, the team has continued to gain confidence in their game.

few games with save percentages of 0.444 and 0.353. However, he soon settled down and found a comfort level manning the Hopkins pipes.

In fact, he has done more than settle down. After a freshman campaign where he posted a solid 0.536 save percentage, Bassett is currently third in the nation with a spectacular 0.622 save percentage on 156 shots.

At the same time, the defensemen in front of him have helped Bassett excel, forcing bad shots and owning one-on-one matchups reminiscent of the great Hopkins championship defenses of 2005 and 2007. This year's defensemen include sophomores Durkin and Chris Lightner, along with standout freshman Jack Reilly.

If you think you're seeing a pattern here, you are right. This team is littered with sophomores across the board from starters to key contributors who have come to lead this team.

Some, like Greeley or attackman Zack Palmer came in as top recruits in the nation's number-one overall recruiting class according to *IL*. Others, like Bassett or midfielder Lee Coppersmith came in somewhat under the radar as guys out of *IL*'s top 50 recruits.

But no matter what their paths were, as freshmen they all went through the rigors of a difficult first season, finishing 7-8 and far below the Hopkins standards that has produced two national titles within the decade and nine overall.

Now as sophomores they have a better understanding of the Hopkins sys-

tem, the college game and more importantly, what they need to do to win. In his postgame press conference after the Va. victory, Coach Pietramala pointed to his team's 12-11 win as a key moment where "we watched them grow up in front of our eyes." In that game the sophomores contributed a total of five goals and three assists while Bassett stopped 14 shots in the win as the Jays held back a furious UVA comeback to take down the then #2 team in the nation.

Even with their newfound success, the team has managed to remain humble under the tutelage of Coach Pietramala who continued to say in his press conference, "How we handle this win will continue to define our team."

They also know that despite the accomplishments, this team is still far from perfect. On a wet Friday night, Hopkins defeated Albany 11-6, but scored only four goals in a sloppy second half where sophomore midfielder John Ranagan believes they "showed a little of [their] age." It is this understanding of their flaws, coupled with their confidence that will certainly drive this team to a successful season and potentially another championship trophy.

All in all, this Jay team starts six sophomores and draws several other vital contributors from the bench, giving them a youthfulness that excites Hopkins fans for this season and ones to come.

Stefan Kowalski, a sophomore himself, went through last season's 7-8 finish as a spectator who saw a team that "lacked the fundamentals of a lacrosse team... which is what Hopkins has built a reputation for." But when looking at this year's team, he believes "if Pietramala can utilize the current players for the next couple years, we will most likely get to the final four if not win."

Kowalski echoes the sentiments of many Jay fans, ready to return to Memorial Day weekend after an uncharacteristic two-year hiatus. And if they do make it to that prized final weekend, it will surely be led by this tremendous second year class.



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The younger members on the team have proven important to its continued success this season.

The Underground

Baltimore on a Budget: Seeing Charm City on \$20 a day

By VICTORIA SCORDATO
Layout Editor

For many people, midterms have just ended. This means finally emerging from your favorite corner of C-level, seeing the sun for the first time in 72 hours and consuming something other than coffee and vending machine snacks before having to do it all over again in four weeks when reading period begins.

For the few truly adventurous souls out there this may even mean getting off campus for an afternoon. Even the biggest adrenaline junkie still has a budget, however. We are all college students after all, and off-campus excursions can get expensive.

But don't fret! *The News-Letter* has got you covered. Whether you're an art history major craving a more modern perspective, or an athlete wanting to sit on the sidelines for once, we have compiled a guide to Baltimore for under \$20 a day just for you.

ART:

The Walters Art Museum
Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 10-5
Admission: Free

Transportation: Conveniently located only a block away from Peabody, the Walters Art Museum is accessible via the JHMI shuttle, which stops at Peabody and is free for students.

According to the Museum's website, "The collection presents an overview of world art from pre-dynastic Egypt to 20th-century Europe, and counts among its many treasures Greek sculpture and Roman sarcophagi; medieval ivories and Old Master paintings; Art Deco jewelry and 19th-century European and American masterpieces."

The Baltimore Museum of Art
Hours: Wednesday to Friday, 10-5; Saturday to Sunday, 11-6
Admission: Free

Running through May 15, *Seeing Now: Photography Since 1960* is an exhibition boasting over 200 images that serve to illustrate the evolution of photography since the '60s.

According to the museum's website, "Seeing Now offers a striking snapshot of the world around us as seen through the eyes of more than 60 photographers — including Diane Arbus, William Eggleston, Garry Winogrand and Cindy Sherman."

Transportation: The BMA is actually

on the Homewood campus, so getting there is both easy and free.

SPORTS:

Orioles Park at Camden Yards

If you're not too picky about actually seeing the players, Camden Yards has some pretty spectacular deals for students.

AT&T Student Night: Every Friday, students of any age with a valid school ID can purchase Left Field Upper Reserve seats for just \$6 at the Oriole Park Box Office. Upcoming Friday games include the Orioles versus the Yankees on April 22, the Rays on May 6 and the Nationals on May 20.

Ollie's Bargain Night: Thanks to Ollie's Bargain Outlet, every Tuesday all Upper Reserve seats are just \$9. Upcoming Tuesday games include the Orioles versus the Twins on April 19, the Red Sox on April 26 and the Mariners on May 10.

Hopkins Lacrosse

They can be easy to take for granted, but as far as Baltimore sports teams go the Hopkins Lacrosse team is a pretty major player. For the general public ticket prices can run anywhere between \$8-10, plus parking. Fortunately though, students get in for free. So take advantage. Upcoming games include: 4/23 versus Navy at Homewood, 8 p.m. and 4/30 versus Loyal at Homewood (Homecoming), 2 p.m.

MOVIES:

Rotunda Cinemas

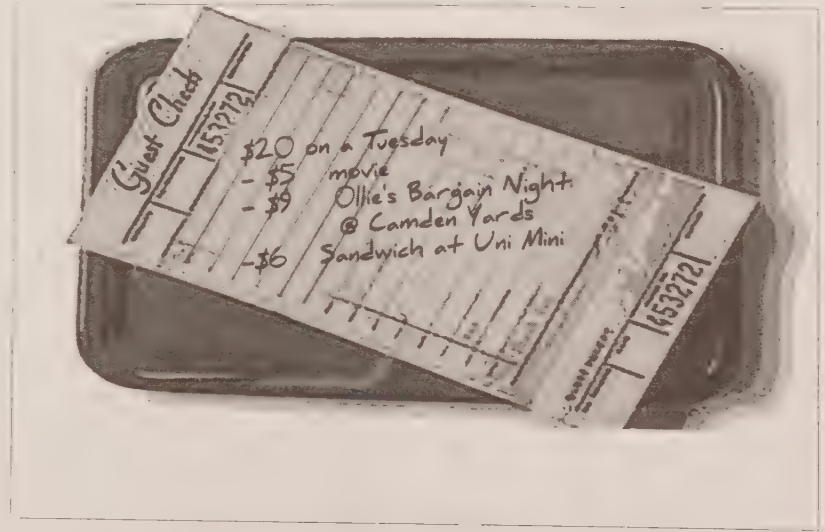
Admission: All seats are \$5 on Tuesday. Matinees (shows before 6 p.m.) are \$6. Evening shows are \$8 for adults and \$7 for seniors and those with student IDs.

This is the most convenient place to catch the latest big box office releases. Located off University Parkway, the theater is about a 20-minute walk, 10-minute bike ride and a 5-minute cab ride from campus. It is also accessible via the Blue Jay Shuttle, which is both convenient and free.

Movies Running through April 14: *Hanna* (PG13) — 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35. *The Lincoln Lawyer* (R) — 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30. *Source Code* (PG13) — 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40.

Charles Theater
Admission: \$9.50

For those of you seeking out less commercial fare, there is the Charles Theater.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Located down North Charles Street, less than two blocks north of Penn Station, the theater is a quick and cheap cab ride away. If you're willing to walk the two blocks, both the Colletgetown and JHMI Shuttles stop at Penn station, always free of charge.

Notable Feature: Through April 14 the Charles will be screening *Putty Hill* every night at 10 p.m. For those of you who don't know, *Putty Hill* is the new feature film by Film and Media Studies professor Mathew Porterfield about a close-knit community on the outskirts of Baltimore. The film, which straddles the line between reality and fantasy, has been met with rave reviews and critical acclaim.

MUSIC:

Baltimore is brimming with music venues that feature artists from nearly every genre imaginable. While concert tickets tend to cost more than \$20, if you look closely you can find some gems well within a college student's budget.

Rams Head

Located two blocks from the Inner Harbor, Rams Head is accessible via the Colletgetown Shuttle or cabs, depending on how much time you have and when your show starts.

Upcoming Events:

The Dirty Heads with Ballyhoo

When: Doors open at 7 p.m. on April 14

Admission: \$17 plus tax Advance, \$20 plus tax on the day of the show

According to the Rams Head website, "Emerging onto the Southern California music scene with a sound as original as the band members themselves, the Dirty Heads' blend of hip-hop and classic reggae rips through the sonic surf with bold beats, fun rhythms and the relaxed vibe of feel-good lyrics. *Rolling Stone* named The Dirty Heads one of 2010's best new bands, and they left an indelible impression on Baltimore music fans opening for Sublime and Matisyahu last summer at Pier Six."

Lady Gaga vs. Madonna vs. Rihanna, Featuring DJ Lil'e

When: Doors open at 8:30 p.m. on April 22nd

Admission: \$12 plus tax

According to Rams Head's website, "DJ Lil'e has hosted some of the region's hottest dance parties and April 22nd she is bringing her uber-popular Lady GaGa vs. Madonna vs. Rihanna show to Rams Head Live. Join us as she continues her world domination tour with this dance fury insanity. Get ready for fist pumps full of pop and an experience leaving the dance floor littered with neon confetti, phone numbered napkins, masks, cell phones, clothes and inhibitions. She 'sweats the playlist so you don't have to.'"

Ottobar

Located down Howard Street, the Ottobar is just an escort van ride away. The venue tends to book more local bands, so tickets are almost always under \$20, and usually range from \$10 to \$15.

Museum highlights B'more industrial greatness, innovation

Former clam cannery building houses exhibits and replicas of Industrial Age Baltimore

By ANN WANG
Science & Technology Editor

After you pass the towering red crane and rusty machines standing in the entrance, stepping into the Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) is eerily like stepping into the past.

A replica of an old-fashioned movie theater is tucked away near the front door. In one room, belts-driven machines from the early 1900s whirl busily as an engineer shapes a brass sash lock. In another room, two typesetters mold and melt down lead slugs at a fully functional Mergenthaler Linotype. Bright bolts of cloth are piled on the counter in a replica of a JoS. A. Bank Clothiers factory, as if waiting to be made into shirts the next morning. The BMI offers a glimpse into the forces that made Baltimore a wealthy and influential city in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The museum is located in Federal

Hill, just off of Key Highway and about a 15-minute walk from the Purple Line's Marshall Street stop. The building sits right on the waterfront with a beautiful view over the harbor. Admission is \$10, or \$6 with a student ID.

The building that houses the museum was built circa 1856 and originally belonged to the Platt & Co. canning company and was an oyster canning factory. It became the BMI in 1981.

Not surprisingly, the museum's first and biggest exhibit, "Canning in Baltimore: The Story of America's First Fast Food and the People Who Made it Happen," is dedicated to the history of the canning industry's rise along the oyster-rich Chesapeake Bay and fertile Maryland farmlands.

During the latter half of the 19th century, canning became the second largest industry in Baltimore. By 1889, the city had 82 canneries, processing fruits, vegetables and oysters.

The cannery exhibit traces the journey of an oyster from the floor of the Chesapeake Bay to the shelf of a corner store. The oysters were first shucked in the

packing house by workers who were paid around six cents for every nine pints of oysters. The shucked oysters were sorted into cans in the filling house, and then the cans were boiled by the "processor." On display are a can elevator used to supply the filling house with tin cans, a steam retort — the giant kettle used to cook the oysters — and even a replica of a corner store where colorful canned goods line the shelves.

The print shop exhibit gives you a feeling of what it would be like working as

a typesetter in the early 20th century. The BMI is in possession of a fully functional Mergenthaler Linotype machine, which was used in newsrooms across the country for nearly one hundred years, from approximately 1886 to 1975.

The Linotype was invented by Ottmar Mergenthaler, a German watchmaker who immigrated to Baltimore in 1872 and also Mergenthaler Hall's namesake.

At the time, newspapers were printed using movable type. Each page was created by putting together pre-formed metal molds of individual letters. Before the invention of the linotype, each letter in a page had to be set by hand. It took a hundred employees about ten hours to set the text of one edition of *The Baltimore Sun*, which had only eight pages (and cost a penny) at the time.

The linotype allowed an entire line of text to be set at a time, hence its name. A typesetter types a line of text on the keyboard in front of the machine, which assembles the molds for each letter. The molds are typically made of steel. A softer lead alloy is poured into

the mold to create the stamp, or slug, for the line. After the page is printed, the slug is melted down again.

Two volunteers, Frank and Ray, run the linotype on Saturdays. Ray began working as a typesetter when he was fifteen and still does part-time work now, at the age of eighty-one. His sixty-six-year career included five years at *The Baltimore Sun*. When he was at the *Sun*, 430 typesetters worked around the clock to produce the three editions — *The Sun*, the *Evening Sun* and the *Sunday Sun*.

Articles were typed or handwritten and passed down from the news room through a tube. The copy-cutter was responsible for cutting each article up, chopping off extraneous paragraphs

as the need arose and assigning the parts to different typesetters.

The print room also possesses the last edition of another Baltimore newspaper, *The News American*, to be typeset using a linotype on March 1st, 1975, before more modern methods such as phototypesetting took over. Other attractions include a signed copy of the last edition of the *Evening Sun*, and several collections of letter molds, known as matrices, in different fonts.

Another major exhibit is the Garment Lof — the replica of a JoS. A. Bank Clothiers shop. Still-functional sewing machines sit on the tables below bolts of cloth, and younger visitors are encouraged to try their hand at assembling pockets.

A room of antique cars included one of the very first ice cream trucks, a refrigerated meat truck and a collection of car radios since the 1940s.

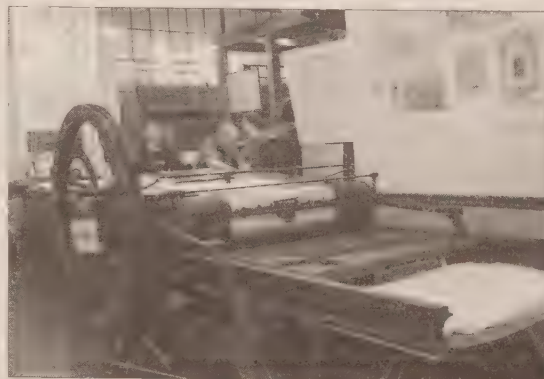
Overall, the BMI provided fascinating insight into Baltimore's past as an industrial powerhouse. The museum was well-organized and very much living since most of the machines are functional.

I found the text was pretty sparse for almost all the exhibits, but both an audio tour and a guided tour are available and the volunteers seem to really to know their stuff. A stop by is well worth a spare afternoon.



COURTESY OF ANN WANG

The entrance to the museum reflects its industrial-themed exhibits.



COURTESY OF ANN WANG

These Linotype machines were developed by Ottmar Mergenthaler.



COURTESY OF ANN WANG

The replica of the Jos. A. Bank Clothiers shop is a part of one of the many exhibits the museum features.

The Underground

Blue Jay Brigade: The Meeting of Colleges

By Kevin Stoll Li



The Big Apple to Charm City: A perspective

By IAN SCOTT
Opinions Editor

Coming to Hopkins from New York City, I had an expectation that I expect most New Yorkers have. I wholeheartedly believed that Baltimore, or any city for that matter, could never compare to New York. After all, New York is the densest city in the most influential, affluent and innovative country in the world.

New York, with Wall Street and the United Nations headquarters, is the financial and political epicenter of the world. Moreover, a distinct and maybe even unrivaled culture abounds in every neighborhood in New York, from Chinatown to Brighton Beach.

I had nothing against Baltimore as a city and I certainly had nothing against its residents for I had never met any. So, I decided that I was going to give Baltimore a fair shake. I would try to forget New York and start with an open mind. Who knows, maybe I could fall in love with this city in the same way I fell in love with my hometown.

Upon arriving at freshman orientation in August, I knew very little about Baltimore. I knew precious little of its history (mainly that it is home to one of the country's foremost ports) and I knew an equally paltry amount about Baltimore's culture.

The general knowledge that I did have, including Maryland's affinity for crab cakes and Baltimore's reputation for high criminal activity, did not even begin to offer any sort of understanding of or appreciation for Baltimore.

One thing about Baltimore I did know a decent amount about was its sports. When I say I had nothing

against Baltimore, I was not being completely honest. I did, and still do, bear a slight grudge against the Ravens for embarrassing the Giants in Super Bowl XXXV.

My first few weeks in Baltimore were eye opening in many ways. First and most obviously, there was the huge transition from high school to college. No matter how well my high school had prepared me academically for Hopkins, it could do

Johns Hopkins with some remark about Baltimore's crime and how it must be a terrible place to live.

Because many students do have a pre-conceived notion of Baltimore as an amalgamation of dangerous neighborhoods rife with drug problems, I am very glad that Hopkins has taken steps to encourage people to cast off their fears and explore the city. Needless to say, there are some very avoidable areas where the fear is well deserved (you

but that isn't important. Pete's is definitely one place within walking distance of campus that I would miss, should Hopkins suddenly uproot itself.

In order to really take advantage of what Baltimore has to offer, you need to go downtown. The only touristy area of Baltimore is the Inner Harbor, into which Baltimore has invested billions of dollars at the expense of other less savory neighborhoods.

Political agendas aside, the end result is that the Inner Harbor is a scenic, fairly bustling area that beats Charles Village hands down.

If you are like me and you are not particularly fond of tourists, however, you should visit Fell's Point and Mount Vernon. Both have active bar scenes and great dining.

While I have yet to appreciate Baltimore as much as New York, I would say that I'm definitely on the right track. I am not an expert on Charm City by a long shot, but I know enough

to appreciate the city for what it is. It has a quaint charm, but it is not so quaint that it is dead. Everyone has their own preferences and I know that what I like won't appeal to everyone so I will refrain from making too many suggestions.

What is important is that Hopkins students, especially freshmen and sophomores, take advantage of Baltimore's mid-sized, Mid-Atlantic culture and dispel some of the myths about Baltimore.

I am sure that anyone who actually gives Baltimore a shot will end up enjoying their time here exponentially more than someone who quarantines themselves in Charles Village, or worse MSE. I am very happy that I chose to explore Baltimore early on in my time at Hopkins and I look forward to learning much more as I continue my studies.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

nothing to help ease me into the college lifestyle.

The simultaneous duo of increased expectations and less explicit direction undoubtedly engenders independence, but at the same time there is a very real chance that you won't find your way immediately.

And then there is the social scene at Hopkins. Hopkins has valiantly tried to help students acclimate through its generous covered grades policy (or at least that is what I think the policy is for). Like most freshman, I made full use of the policy. Apart from allowing me to become more socially active than I would have been otherwise, having covered grades allowed me to see more of Baltimore than I expected.

I am only a freshman, but already I cannot even count the number of times people have reacted to my saying I go to

can trust me, I have taken up watching *The Wire*.

The news maxim 'if it bleeds, it leads' is not a myth. However, the dangerous neighborhoods are only subsets of the whole of Baltimore. Most neighborhoods in Baltimore are perfectly safe.

Obviously, there is Charles Village. It is pretty safe; I'll give it that. But in all honesty there's nothing really interesting around here. The sumptuous dining includes Subway, Chipotle, and Ajumma, which are all good in their own respect, but after about two weeks they start to get old. If Hopkins were not in Charles Village, I would have no reason to set foot here and I think a lot of students agree.

That is, unless Pete's Grille is considered part of Charles Village. I think technically it's in Greenmount,

Bubble created by Hopkins students hinders full B'more experience

By **MICHAEL NAKAN**
News & Features Editor

I went to a pretty unconventional high school.

See, I went to the American School in London (ASL), which promised a quality American education in England. I was born and raised in London but I attended ASL from kindergarten until senior year.

It was around eighth grade that I realized I was living in a bubble.

It started with realizations about myself; for one thing, my accent had slowly twisted into something which was almost totally American (strange considering I'd never been there for more than a week-long family vacation). My dress style, too, was largely different to that of my English friends, and my knowledge of vernacular was firmly entrenched in American slang.

I got out into London, sure. I went to Leicester Square, I had a favorite restaurant on Brick Lane and I knew the cheapest places to get pints of beer all over town. But for the most part, the people I associated with — my friends from school — just didn't.

A three-block bubble had formed around the neighborhood where the school was based, and the vast majority of teenagers didn't have a clue about what London really was.

Nagging and pestering aside, it seemed virtually impossible to remove these kids from the safety of their comfort zone. As we grew older, and my acknowledgement of the problem became more pronounced as I started to explore London more, it actually began to annoy me. Didn't these kids realize what they were missing out on?

Hopkins suffers from virtually the same problem. The plight of the "Hopkins bubble" has been well-documented throughout the ages and within the pages of this very newspaper, but that doesn't mean that it's any less of an issue. For the most part, the lives of students revolve overwhelmingly around the three blocks stretching in every direction around campus.

From Uni Mini down to Eddie's, from SAE to Sig Ep, it sure seems like Hopkins students are trapped in a bubble of their own creation — and its walls are getting thicker all the time.

I wrote an article in *The News-Letter* late last semester chronicling real Baltimorean citizens' opinions about Hopkins. For the most part, their answers were unanimously positive; "When I'm on the road, it's either *The Wire* or John Hopkins. And when it's Hopkins, I see something light up in their eyes," one police lieutenant told me. But another, more worrying trend, was ignorance of the Homewood campus here



COURTESY OF WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIES.ORG

The Our Daily Bread Employment Center, near campus, offers volunteering opportunities for students.

in Charles Village. For most of the people I interviewed, Hopkins consists of only the hospital in central Baltimore (or maybe, if we're lucky, they may have heard of the medical school). The undergraduate community is mostly unknown to the greater Baltimore community.

That brings us full circle back to the bubble which we have created for ourselves. Hopkins is overwhelmingly different from the rest of Baltimore.

Frankly, I feel that not enough students here seem to care.

This fear began by watching my peers in "Baltimore and the Wire: A Focus on Major Urban Issues," most of whom were more preoccupied with playing games on their computer screens (with one particularly flagrant offender just playing "Fruit Ninja" on his iPhone for the majority of every class) and furthered now with a similar situation in "Lecture on Public Health and Wellbeing in Baltimore," which has suffered from extreme dwindling attendance.

I am not trying to disparage the attempts of certain valiant groups who operate under the Center for Social Concern or other similar umbrella organizations, but for the most part I feel that the Hopkins grind has massively distracted our student body from local issues in the community.

I volunteered at "Our Daily Bread Employment Center" for a morning shift a few weeks ago — the center is only a few minutes from campus. I asked the event coordinator if Hopkins students ever volunteered there and she told me yes, but only in groups and usually to fulfill a service requirement.

While I was there I saw people who appeared addicted to drugs, with their yellow-addled eyes and slow disinterest in conversation. I saw homeless people

and interacted with them. I felt, for once during my time at Hopkins, like I lived in Baltimore.

That, for me, is the biggest issue. I don't even feel like I live in the city of Baltimore. I feel like I live in the city of Hopkins, extending all the way from SAE to Sig Ep.

I do not pretend that I am very different to most Hopkins students; I was there to earn service hours too. But at the same time, I cannot help but be discouraged at the extreme lack of local interest which seems prevalent as I walk around campus. How can it be that equivalent schools can have so many more rallies, fundraisers and overall campus-wide events than we can?

The main reason that this bothers me so

much is that I feel an uncomfortable déjà vu at Hopkins. I feel like people here are missing out on Baltimore in a way which my American friends in London missed out on that unique experience.

There is no overnight solution, although perhaps an interest in surrounding neighborhoods like Waverly from the administration would help to at least assuage the issue. Walking three blocks up 33rd reveals a side of Baltimore not even comparable to our tree-lined campus.

A minister who came to talk in my Baltimore class once described Hopkins as "an island of wealth in a sea of despair."

I say we try and change that. Take a deliberate interest in exploring nearby neighborhoods.

Volunteering and philanthropy could not be more important in a city like Baltimore.

Everyone gets sick of Hopkins. So try going to Baltimore.

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Lessons learned from East Baltimore

By **MIKE ROGERS**
For *The News-Letter*

For more than three years now, I've spent most of my time volunteering in the Middle East neighborhood of East Baltimore. My goal, then as now, has been to help, in some small way, with the difficulties that arise in the midst of everyday life in one of the city's most troubled neighborhoods. During that time I've come to realize that the most important classrooms of my undergraduate education have seldom been classrooms at all. More often than not, they have been community centers where quiet and dedicated neighborhood activists have worked for decades; private homes where people contending with their own difficulties invite me in to talk, even when I come unannounced; street corners, churches and stores.

Of all the lessons I've learned in these many spaces, one of the most important and lasting might be the answer to an uncomfortable question: what does it mean to help? More specifically, what does it mean for the privileged students of a prestigious research university that also happens to be part of the state's largest private employer? In what ways can we make a positive difference in the lives of low-income residents of our city? What are our goals as we set out to do so? Do our intentions, however good they might be, support those of the residents of neighborhoods in which we would like to work?

I hope that my experiences might be useful for other students who find themselves, like me, both deeply interested in working in Baltimore City and profoundly outraged by our own University's failure to consider the desires of long-term East Baltimore residents in its role as a real-estate developer.

I began volunteering in Middle East Baltimore in early 2008 after some months of troubled fascination with the "New East Baltimore" redevelopment project, an 88-acre urban "revitalization" initiative that was to involve the relocation of nearly 800 households from the Middle East neighborhood. The Middle East neighborhood had been one of the city's lowest-income neighborhoods for several decades, and it had been described regularly by various developers as "blighted." (In an article published in this newspaper, the former President of our University, Dr. William Brody, went so far as to suggest that martial law ought to be imposed in the neighborhood.) Unsure of what to make of all of this, earlier that winter I started to walk around in the neighborhood and ask people I encountered on the street what they thought about what was going on around them. People's responses varied; more often than not, those with whom I spoke were confused



COURTESY OF MIKE ROGERS

Charm City Clinic and Men and Families Center staff stand in front of the Men and Families Center.

about when or if they would have to move. I was stopped by police several times during these experiences, accused a few times of trying to buy drugs — after all, the well-meaning police officers seemed to suggest, why else would you be here?

Around this time, I got in touch with the Save Middle East Action Committee (SMEAC), a grassroots organization of neighborhood residents advocating for justice for themselves and their neighbors in the context of the massive relocation and redevelopment going on in their community. First as a reporter for this newspaper, and then as something more like an aspiring activist, I began attending community meetings held by SMEAC and the development organization, East Baltimore Development Inc.

Many neighborhood residents spoke openly with me from the start and welcomed my well-meaning if uninformed offers to help. Many others regarded me with understandable suspicion for some time. Their suspicion was at first difficult for me to understand as an 18-year-old freshman with what I thought to be good intentions; but now, more than three years on, I find myself wondering instead at the fact that others welcomed me so warmly from the start, even as they worked against the displacement of their neighbors as part of a project in which my University had such a large role.

I learned a lot over the next year. I made lots of mistakes. The most common was thinking that I knew the answers to very complicated problems without actually having lived through them. Those mistakes, however, taught me to actually listen to the people who I was meeting with, rather than listening to my own voice when I spoke.

As SMEAC's community organizer and board members patiently allowed me to assist and accompany them as they visited residents' homes, prepared for community meetings, distributed flyers and made

phone calls, I began to hear what neighborhood residents give voice to — not only their problems and difficulties, but also their aspirations and attachments.

As I met artists, teachers, professionals and others whose families had called the neighborhood home for as many as four generations, I began to recognize that the neighborhood was more than simply a place where people struggled with social and economic problems imposed by others, a place in constant need of intervention by others to fix those apparent problems.

I had to begin to ask myself why I continued to show up, day after day, week after week. Clearly, the issues that concerned my friends in the neighborhood — like a deep worry about decades-old neighborhood networks being ruptured — were beyond my limited capacity as a University student to fix, no matter how much I might want to "help."

Over the course of that first year, to "help," for me, began to change from a knee-jerk desire to intervene and try to fix obvious and not-so-obvious inequalities to a desire to support the work and aspirations of individuals and groups contending with inequality — that is, to try and let my responses to problems of inequality be directly shaped by the people who are most affected by them. This is not an easy thing to do.

So, I continued to do what I found that I was good at: at my friends' requests, I took extensive notes at community meetings, documented changes in the neighborhood with photographs and kept visiting and listening to residents. These were small ways that I could contribute to the goals of individuals with whom I am still close, several years later.

Beginning to learn to be that kind of supporter has involved making long-term commitments to specific people and causes. Both by accident and through the generosity of

my friends in Middle East Baltimore, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the same people, in the same neighborhood, for more than three years now. This engagement has helped me develop enough trust and friendship with neighborhood residents that they can tell me how I might be most useful in working with them towards their goals in fighting inequality, whether in the context of gentrification or, in my more recent work neighborhood work since late 2009, health and illness. This orientation toward helping — one marked by long-term engagement and a willingness to let one's goals and activities be dictated by those most affected by the problems one seeks to respond to — is a helpful starting point for students who hope to get involved.

Of course, long-term involvement has other benefits. Largely through individuals I met while working in Middle East Baltimore, in late 2009 I became involved with a group of Baltimore university students and community activists (including Dom Burneikis, another Hopkins senior with a long involvement in East Baltimore) looking to start a free clinic in the neighborhood. In partnership with a long-time East Baltimore community center, the Men and Families Center, we established the Charm City Clinic, a non-profit health outreach partnership that provides intensive community-based assistance with healthcare access, health screenings and referrals to other providers. At the clinic, our growing effectiveness hinges on the involvement of neighborhood residents in our efforts. At a town hall meeting and through extended conversations, their experiences, positive and negative, in accessing healthcare helped determine the services we offer. And on a weekly basis, both their expertise in issues in their neighborhood and their social ties to their neighbors help us to reach those who might benefit from our services. Here, our attempts to let our responses to health inequalities be dictated in part by some of the individuals who are most affected by them mark both our orientation toward "helping" and our understanding that neighborhood residents are the real experts when it comes to problems in their neighborhood.

My experiences in East Baltimore have been the bedrock of my education in inequality, poverty, health and illness. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my teachers at Hopkins — including Veena Das, Clara Han and Melanie Shell-Weiss — for their patient support and tremendous generosity as I have worked through these questions of what it means to help alongside my training in anthropology. But I hope that other students might also find teachers in Baltimore like I have in the Middle East neighborhood — theirs are the lessons I will carry most closely upon graduation.

— *The Underground* —



Baltimore bicycling community grows over last decade

City offers many different trails and paths for casual and serious cyclists

By RACHEL WITKIN
News & Features Editor

As the weather grows warmer, many people will start riding their bikes around the city of Baltimore, which was ranked 48th in *Bicycling Magazine's* "America's Best Bike Cities."

According to junior Adam Zeldin, who is the captain of Hopkins's cycling team and the president of its cycling club, ridership in Baltimore city has doubled in the past ten years.

"Baltimore has definitely shown a lot of interest in improving its infrastructure in the city," he said. "They've had a full-time manager on the staff downtown, and they've incorporated a lot of bike lanes

onto city roads. It's definitely improving."

In fact, Baltimoreans bike ride for many reasons. University of Maryland, Baltimore County junior Tom McKay, who works at biking store Twenty20, notes the following reasons.

"The whole bike riding movement in Baltimore has grown really significantly in the past ten years, bicycling is really a diverse group of people. When you say bike riding to one person, it could mean a different thing than when you're talk-

ing to somebody else," he said. "Some people do it for fitness, some people use

bikes as a tool to just get around, some people just do it for fun, some people do it as art, some do it to make a statement about something. So it's a real diverse group of people. That being said, pretty much all its diversity has come a long way and grown pretty well in the last 10 years. There's a lot more racing

now, a lot more community events, a lot

When you say bike riding to one person, it could mean a different thing than when you're talking to somebody else

—TOM MCKAY
TWENTY20 EMPLOYEE

more activism. All of these are pretty good things," he said.

According to McKay, many people in the college age group have taken up bike riding.

"It's the new big craze," he said.

Some in Baltimore may even consider bike riding to be a type of art form.

"A lot of people nowadays are interested in what they call the cultural side of bike riding, which is like the hipster kids," McKay said. "That's more of the artsy, kind of accessorizing statement side of bike riding. There's definitely something to be said about that group of people. I would also argue that the bike racing community is highly cultural. There's a lot of different uniqueness in any particular group."

There are many trails and paths around

the city for cyclers to take advantage of. Colletgetown now has a bike route, which includes going along Lake Montibello over to Hopkins and then north up Roland Avenue.

"That's mainly to get around," McKay said.

There is also the Jones Falls Trail, which goes from Druid Hill Park to Penn Station. It extends along the Jones Falls River.

While biking on the trail, one is able to see historic mills, an overlook at Round Falls and the Baltimore Street Car Museum. Once the trail is completed, it will go from the Inner Harbor to Robert E. Lee Park and Lake Roland, extending 12 miles.

"That [trail is] good for people who are just starting out," McKay said. "They get their bike out of the basement and roll it out, and they want to know where to ride. Druid Hill Park is a really awesome place to ride, [and] it's really close to Hopkins."

Working with beginners is one service that the company McKay works at, Twenty20, provides. Twenty20 opened last year in Hampden. Everyone that works there races bikes.

"We're a little bit more on the sports side of bike riding," McKay said. "[But] we have lots of connections. Baltimore is a pretty small city, so everyone kind of knows everybody eventually."

The company also sponsors Hopkins Cycling, Charm City Cycling and a women's specific-pro team. They also serve cycle commuters and anyone that needs their bike repaired.

Twenty20 also does some advocacy, including a benefit event held for Hopkins student Nathan Krasnopoler, who was hit while riding his bike in Feb.

Twenty20 aims to get more people to go bike riding.

"We take whatever angle we can to [increase] the amount of people that ride bikes whether it's those who ride bikes for exercise or who ride bikes because they like to race [or] because they need to get around," McKay said.

"There's a lot of different things people do on bikes, but we cater to them all. That's what's cool about Baltimore — that all those people are here. That's kind of like bike riding in a nutshell around here."

Zeldin appreciates the proximity of Twenty20 to the Hopkins campus.

"It's never been easier to get a bike and get situated and start riding," he said.

Twenty20 also tries to ease new riders into road riding.

"Road riding around here is kind of difficult unless you're pretty experienced because of density," McKay said. "Twenty20 does rides, which are designed to try to ease people into it, get them involved and interested."

McKay also recommends that new riders use meetup.com, which is a social network where people can find others that share the same interests.

There is a group called Biking in Baltimore on the website, which was put together by a collaboration of bike shops in the city, including Twenty20.

"There are very team entry-level rides that line up on the social network," he said. "It's a good way to get connected with people that are just starting out."

Zeldin also stressed the importance of safe bike riding.

"For anyone riding a bike, safety is imperative. Always wear a helmet, and make sure you have lights if you're riding at night," he wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"Though 99.99 percent of cars are observant and considerate, it's better to be safe..."

There are also many easy ways to get out of the city, especially in the surrounding Baltimore County.

"There's really good riding," Zeldin said.

"You can go up towards Pretty Boy reservoir near Penn. [or] you can go out to Liberty Reservoir. There's a lot of great little farm roads and little farming villages, some really cool and unique places that you can find. [There are] some really steep hills, fast roads and some really pretty farmland and great forests that you can ride through."

"You can get out of the city pretty fast," he said.

There are also many cycling options that exist at Hopkins itself. The cycling club, which is mostly involved in advocacy, is helping out with the ciclovía bike ride that will happen in May, where Roland Avenue and part of University Parkway will get closed off.

There is also a competitive side to biking. The Hopkins bicycling team competes in the Atlantic Cycling Conference. They have raced up and down the mid-Atlantic, N.C., Md. and N.Y. Last weekend, they went to W. Va. to compete in a short-circuit race for time, which was a 12-mile circuit four times.

"The team [has] a really good time," Zeldin said. "We get off campus and travel to far and exotic places."

In general, biking in Baltimore has many incarnations, whether it is through competitive, recreational or social outlets. But, no matter what type of biking a person participates in, there is one point of commonality: for those wanting to become a more serious bike rider, they should ride more and get into a conditioning regime.

"Someone starting to get conditioned for serious cycling should just ride lots," Zeldin wrote.

"Having connections with a good bike shop and club helps too."



COURTESY OF ADAM ZELDIN

The Hopkins Cycling Team participates in races almost every weekend all over the country.



COURTESY OF ADAM ZELDIN

Besides competitive bike racing, bikers can also enjoy some of the many area trails the city offers.



COURTESY OF ADAM ZELDIN

Whether a competitive or recreational biker, safety, starting with wearing a helmet, is a chief concern.

The Underground

Focus on Baltimore history.

By **PETER SICHER**
Magazine Editor

April 19 will mark the 150th anniversary of the first combat deaths of the American Civil War. Strangely enough, it will also mark the 236th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord which began the American War for Independence. While the first deaths in the American Revolution occurred in Mass., the first deaths of the American Civil War occurred closer far closer to us. They occurred in the city of Baltimore.

In Nov. 1860 Abraham Lincoln, the nominee of the Republican Party, which intended to block the further extension of slavery into America's western territories, was elected President of the United States. His election terrified the slaveholders who controlled Southern politics. They were convinced that he posed a threat to the survival of slavery. On Dec. 20, 1860 S.C. seceded from the United States, followed by Miss. on Jan. 9, Fla. on Jan. 10, Ala. on Jan. 11, Ga. on Jan. 19, La. on Jan. 16 and Texas on Feb. 1. By the time Lincoln took his Oath of Office on March 4, 1861, seven of the 34 States of the Union claimed to be the new Confederate States of America.

For the next month Lincoln found himself engaged in a standoff over Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Because the fort was federal property and secession was illegitimate, Lincoln did not want to surrender Sumter. The rebels believed it belonged to them now that they had formed their own nation. Neither side, however, wished to fire the first shot and alienate the border states. Eventually Lincoln forced the hand of the rebels by informing them that he intended to send ships loaded with non-military provisions to resupply the federal garrison at Fort Sumter, which otherwise would have to surrender soon because it was running out of food. If the rebels tried to stop this "humanitarian mission," the supply ships would be reinforced by a naval squadron.

If the rebel government allowed the fort to be resupplied it would be seen as a sign of weakness. On the other hand, if they tried to stop the re-provisioning of the fort, they would be seen as firing on ships carrying food for hungry soldiers. Outmaneuvered by Lincoln's brilliant gambit, the rebels began bombarding Sumter on April 12, 1861 before the federal ships could arrive. On April 14, 1861, Fort Sumter surrendered to the rebel forces in Charleston. On April 15, Presi-

dent Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to deal with an insurrection "too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings." Many of those troops would travel to Washington. To get to the capital, however, they would have to pass through Baltimore, Md.

In 1861 Baltimore was a very prosperous city thanks to the railroads and was also the fourth most populous city in the United States, with well over 200,000 citizens. It was by far the most populous city in a slave state. While Md. was a slave state, however, Baltimore was not really a slave city anymore.

Even though there were 2,218 slaves in the city, there were 25,680 free blacks, more than in any other city in the nation. In the 1860 election, Lincoln got almost all of his few Md. votes from the city. During the war, Baltimore would be the headquarters of the radical emancipationist faction in Md. politics. Despite this, many in Baltimore had Southern sympathies.

Baltimore was also a very violent city with the nickname of "Mob Town." Elections in the 1850s were often accompanied by violent clashes between the pro-Southern Democrats and the anti-immigrant Know-Nothings. On the night of Feb. 21, 1861, while en-route to Washington, Lincoln was informed by detective Allan Pinkerton that there was a plot to assassinate him when he appeared in Baltimore on Feb. 23.

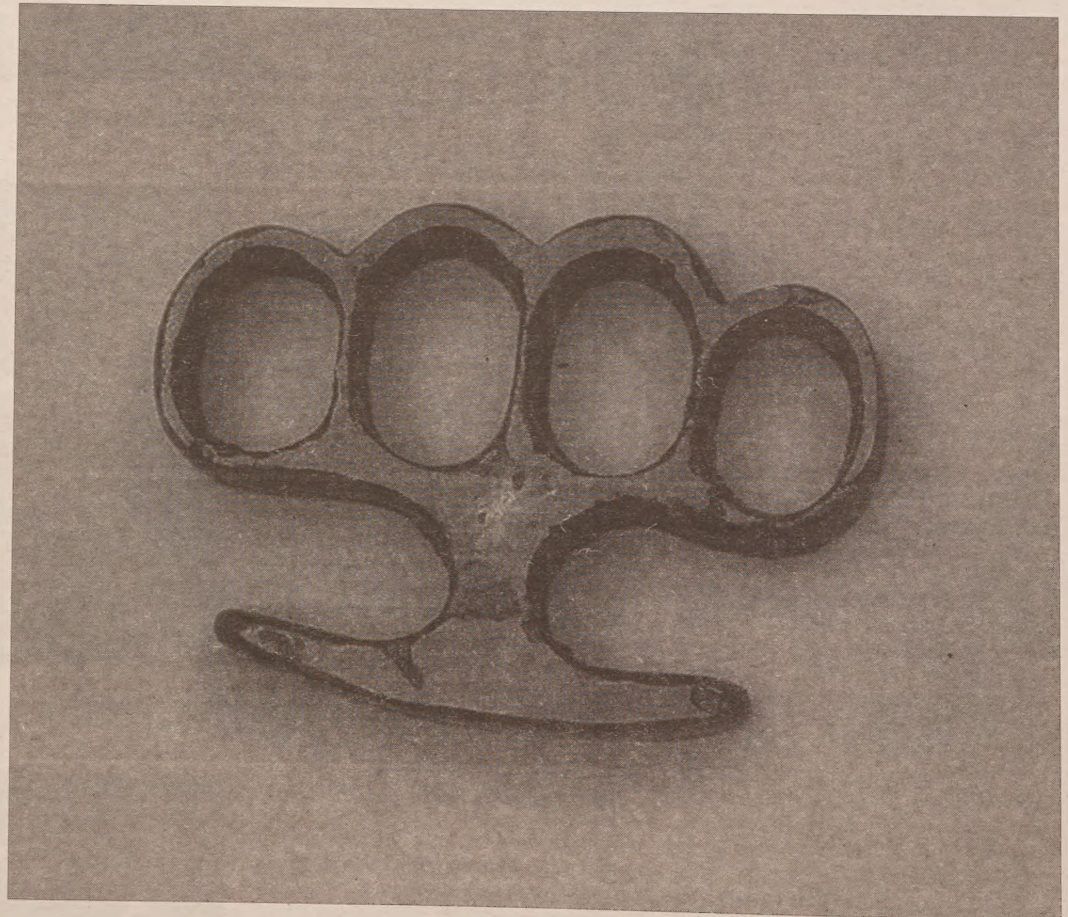
After giving a speech the next day at Philadelphia's Independence Hall, at which he declared that, "I would rather be assassinated on this spot than to sur-

render" the principles of the Declaration of Independence. As he well knew, the threat of assassination was quite real. That night Lincoln's private secretary John Hay told a friend, "Tomorrow we enter slave territory . . . There might be trouble in Baltimore. If so, we will not go to Washington, unless in long, narrow boxes."

To avoid that eventuality, Lincoln's friends and advisors convinced him to

ence of angry crowds. The city's mayor, George Brown, and Md. governor Thomas Hicks, however, were worried enough to issue proclamation begging for calm.

On Friday April 19, the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers arrived in Baltimore. To get from the train station they arrived at, President Street Station, to the train that would take them to Washington, they would have to travel a mile to Camden Station. Locomo-



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Lincoln's bodyguards feared he would be assassinated in Baltimore. One of them was armed with these brass knuckles.

sneak through Baltimore on the night train. At one point, while sitting on the train in Baltimore, Lincoln heard people singing "Dixie" and he muttered to Pinkerton that "No doubt there will be a great time in Dixie by and by." Lincoln, however, made it safely into Washington on the morning of Feb. 23. The federal soldiers rushing to the capital's aide in April would not be so lucky.

On April 18 a group of volunteers from Penn. were able to make it through the city without incident, despite the pres-

tives were not allowed to pass through the city, so the train cars were pulled over the tracks between the stations by horses.

The regiment's commander, Colonel Edward Jones, was prepared for trouble. He told his untrained and inexperienced men that "You will undoubtedly be insulted, abused and perhaps assaulted, to which you must pay no attention whatever, but march, with your faces square to the front, and pay no attention to the mob, even if they throw stones, bricks or other missiles;



The Pratt Street Riot and the Civil War

but if you are fired upon, and any of you are hit, your officers will order you to fire. Do not fire into any promiscuous crowds, but select any man who you may see aiming at you, and be sure to drop him."

Most of the soldiers were able to pass safely through the city. Mayor Brown later recalled that "When I was about to leave Camden-street station, supposing all danger to be over, news was brought . . . that some troops had been left behind, and that the mob was tearing up the track on Pratt Street, so as to obstruct the progress of the cars . . ."

Brown wrote, "As the soldiers advanced along President street, the commotion increased; one of the band of rioters appeared bearing a Confederate flag . . . Stones were thrown in great numbers, and at the corner of Fawn street, two of the soldiers were knocked down by stones and seriously injured. In crossing Pratt-street bridge, the troops had to pick their way over joists and scantling, which by this time had been placed on the bridge to obstruct their passage."

A member of the secessionist mob later recalled that "A big man came forward with a Palmetto [S.C.] flag and planting it in front of the Colonel with an oath, dared him to touch it." Jones "was prudent and did not." The rioter recalled that "The men of the regiment were very pale and quiet; the Corporal on the left especially exposed. I saw a man spit in his face, and another kick him. Tears ran down his cheeks, and he was as pale as death. It was he who a little later was killed on the Pratt Street bridge."

Henry Wagner remembered that a lone and courageous man was defying the crowd and cheering for the Union. Wagner warned him of the danger but the man said, "I'll hurrah for the Union forever." The man was soon "felled by a treacherous blow."

When Brown arrived at the scene he saw the green soldiers "firing wildly, sometimes backward, over their shoulders, so rapid was the march that they could not stop to take aim."

Hoping to restore calm, Brown marched alongside the Mass. troops.

He wrote that his presence "for a short time had some effect, but very soon the attack was renewed with greater violence. The mob grew bolder. Stones flew thick and fast. Rioters rushed at the soldiers and attempted to snatch their muskets, and at least on two occasions succeeded. With one of these muskets a soldier was killed. Men fell on both sides . . . the soldiers fired at will. There was no firing by platoons, and I heard no order given to fire."

Brown tried to restore calm: "I cried out, waving my umbrella to emphasize my words, 'For God's sake, don't shoot!' but it was too late."

A group of policemen soon "came at a run from the direction of the Camden-street station, and throwing themselves in the rear of the troops they formed a line in front of the mob, and with drawn revolvers kept it back."

Once the troops finally made it to Camden Station and escaped the city, the mob turned on the regimental band as well as a group of unarmed Penn. troops who were still at President Street Station. Some of the troops were injured but they were eventually able to return by train to Philadelphia. By the

end of the day, four soldiers and twelve civilians were dead, the first casualties in a war that would eventually claim over 600,000 lives.



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On April 19, 1861, the 86th anniversary of the American's Revolution's first Battle, the City of Baltimore lived up to its nickname of "Mob Town" when a secessionist mob attacked Union soldiers rushing to the defense of Washington D.C.

Delegations from Baltimore came to Lincoln, begging him not to allow troops to pass through the city. Initially, Lincoln tried to be patient and hear them out, but he eventually lost his temper, snapping at them:

"You . . . come here to me and ask for peace on any terms, and yet have no word of condemnation for those who are making war on us. You express great horror of bloodshed, and yet would not lay a straw in the way of those who are organizing in Va. and elsewhere to capture this city. The rebels attack Fort Sumter, and your citizens attack troops sent to the defense of the Government . . . and yet you would have me break my oath and surrender the Government without a blow. There is no Washington in that — no Jackson in that — no manhood nor honor in that."

He told them that he wanted no bloodshed, and that to reach Washington, troops had to travel through Md., and if those troops were attacked, he declared, "I will lay Baltimore in ashes." When he was warned that 75,000 would resist Union troops passing through Baltimore, he replied, "there

was enough room on her soil to bury 75,000 men."

To keep further federal troops from passing through Baltimore, Brown and other officials ordered railroad bridges burned. Telegraph lines were also cut, leaving Washington isolated from the loyal North. Eventually federal troops were able to reinforce Washington by bypassing Baltimore and traveling down the Chesapeake Bay to Annapolis. While some believed Lincoln should have ordered the troops to pass through Baltimore, his decision not to do this helped tempers cool in the city and helped prevent Md.'s secession.

On May 13, Brigadier General Benjamin Butler and troops under his command occupied the city of Baltimore with no resistance. Federal troops would remain in the city throughout the war. Furthermore, Lincoln suspended the writ of Habeas Corpus in Md., even allowing several secessionist members of the State Legislature as well as Baltimore Mayor George W. Brown to be arrested. Ironically, it would be in Baltimore that Lincoln would be nominated by the Republican Party to run for a second term in 1864.

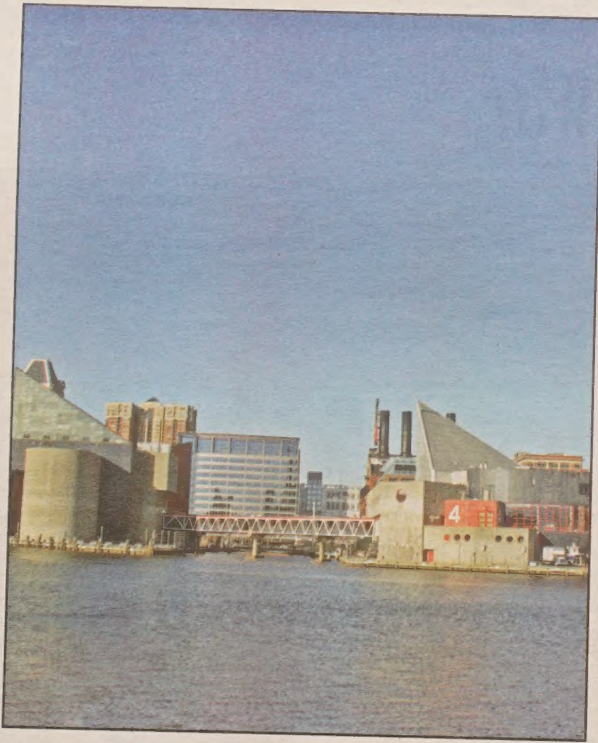
I saw a man spit in [the Corporal's] face, and another kick him. Tears ran down his cheeks, and he was as pale as death. It was he who a little later was killed on the Pratt Street bridge.

— MEMBER OF THE
SECESSIONIST MOB

The Underground

Baltimore Sightseeing

By Shanna Edberg and
Austin Schnitzer



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